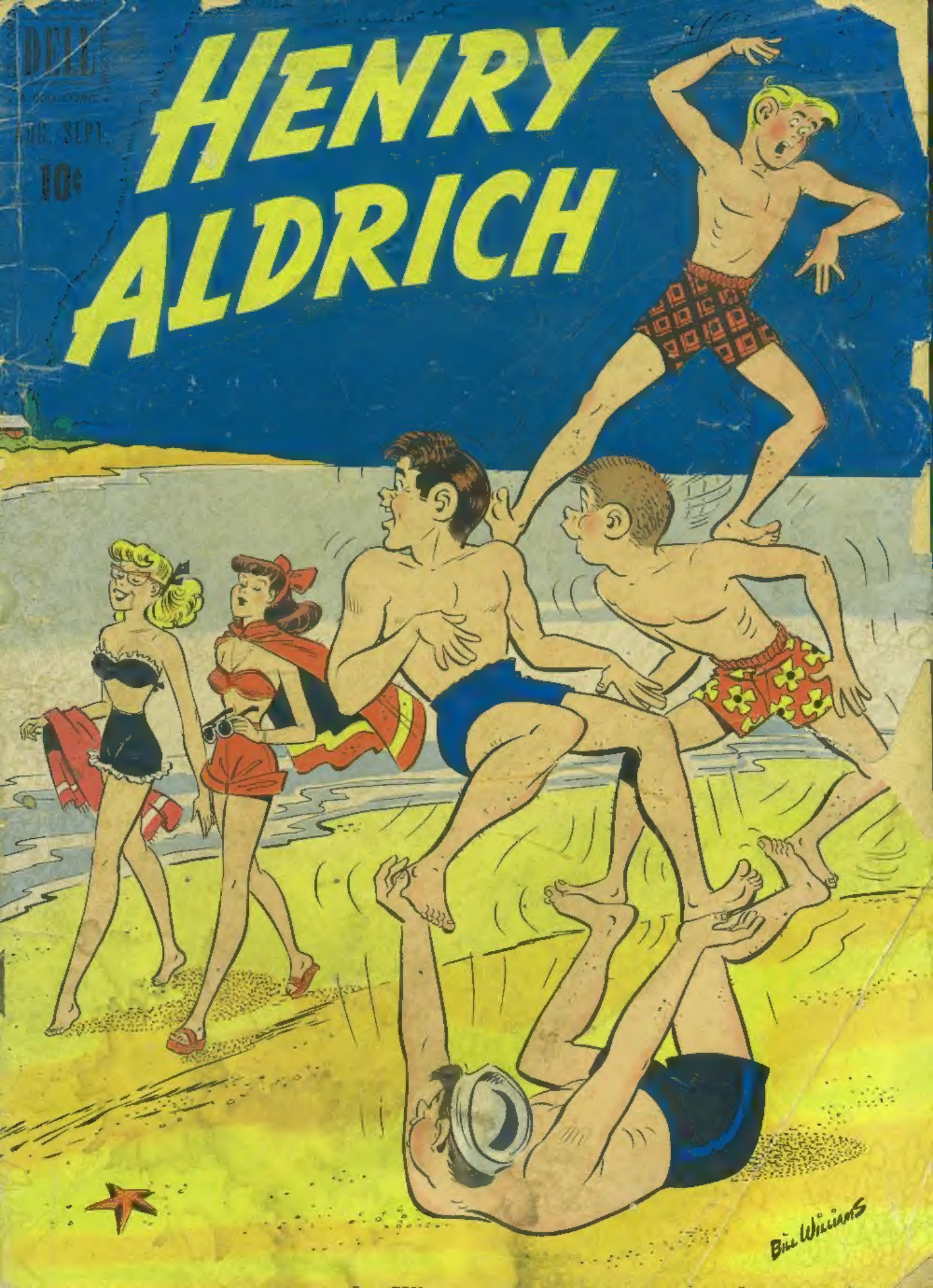
DELL
AUG.-SEPT.
10¢
HENRY ALDRICH
BILL WILLIAMS

HENRY ALDRICH GETS INTO THE ACT

Mrs. Aldrich replaced the receiver back on the telephone and returned to the living room.

"Well," she said, picking up her sewing, "isn't that nice."

Henry looked up from the sport magazine he was reading, "Who was it, Mother?"

"Your Aunt Harriet, Henry, and I have good news for you . . ."

"For me, Mother? I don't understand . . ."

"Aunt Harriet has presented us with her tickets to the ballet tomorrow night at the Opera House, Henry," answered Mrs. Aldrich, "and inasmuch as your father will be away on business and Mary still has that cold, I think that you . . ."

"What? M-m-me?" interrupted Henry. "Mother, you don't mean . . ."

"Why, yes, Henry, you can borrow your father's tuxedo, and invite your friend, Geraldine. After all, you shouldn't neglect your cultural education, you know."

"But, Mother, what'll the fellows at school say? Ballet . . . that's for girls . . . gee, whiz!"

However, Mrs. Aldrich insisted and Henry sadly went to call Geraldine——

"Maybe she's got another date," Henry thought hopefully. But she hadn't. Then Henry explained that it wasn't his idea and that he was just making use of the tickets for Aunt Harriet's sake. Still, Geraldine was enthusiastic, and so, as Henry put it, he "was trapped"!

The following evening on his arrival at the Opera House, Henry tried to be as inconspicuous as possible. In spite of the fact that Geraldine wanted to stop and chat with friends, Henry hurried her through the crowd in the foyer. But, once inside, Henry found to his dismay that Aunt Harriet's seats were right out in front in a box overlooking the stage.

Impatiently, Henry awaited the beginning of the performance. He was nervous and ill at ease. Finally, the house lights were dimmed, the orchestra took its place and the ballet began.

As the evening progressed, Henry's attitude slowly began to change.

"Say, Geraldine," he whispered in about the middle of the first number, "this isn't boring at all, is it? Why, I never saw anything like it before!"

Henry leaned forward in his seat and put his elbows up on the edge of the box. But, in doing so, he knocked off his program, which fluttered out into space.

"Oh!" he gasped, and made a lunge to grab it. But his sudden wild swing caught Geraldine's purse and sent it flying! It landed with a CRASH on the stage and coins, keys, lipstick, comb, compact, mirror, and everything a girl's purse contains scattered in all directions.

The dancers stopped, the music stopped,

(Continued on inside back cover)

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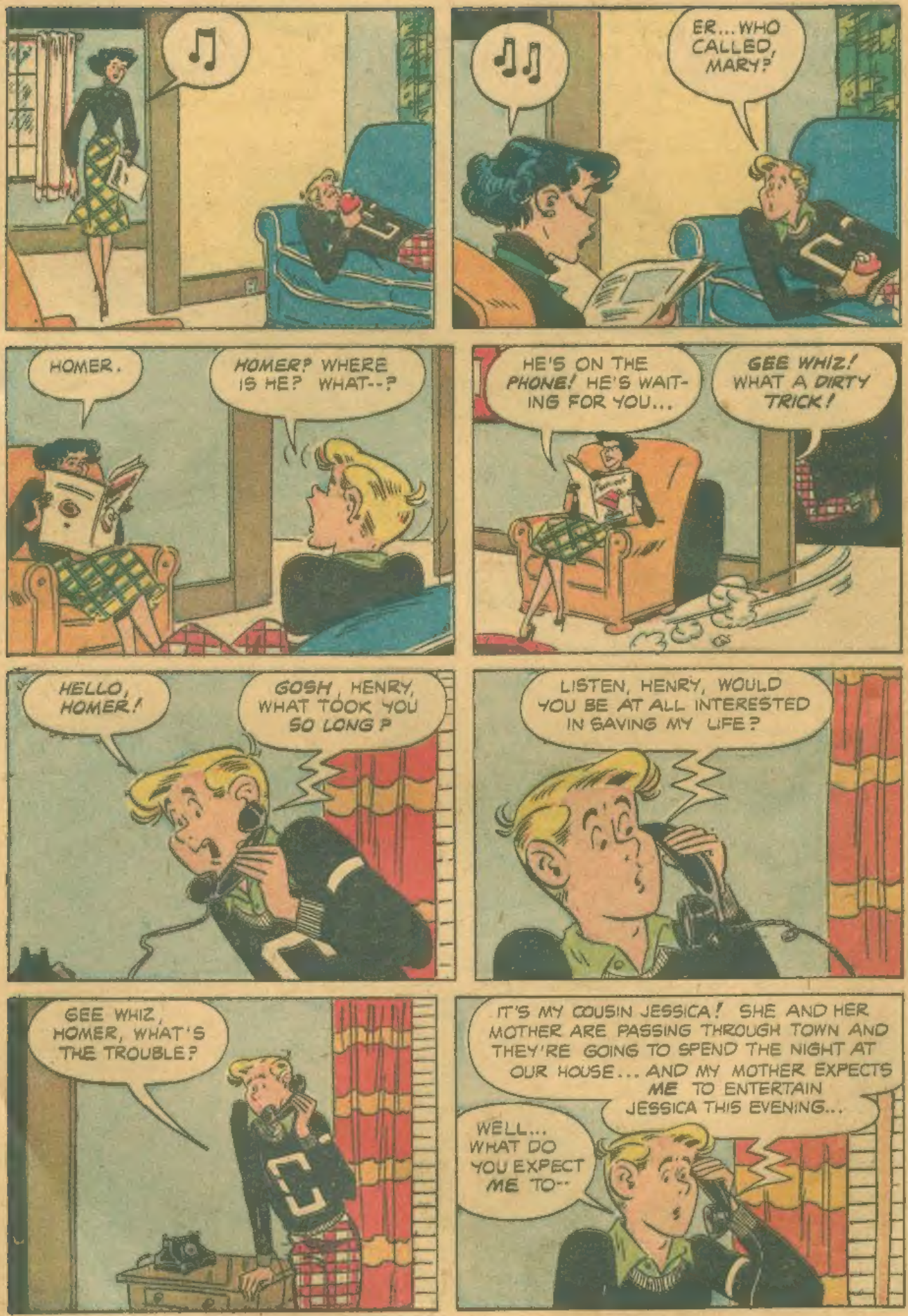
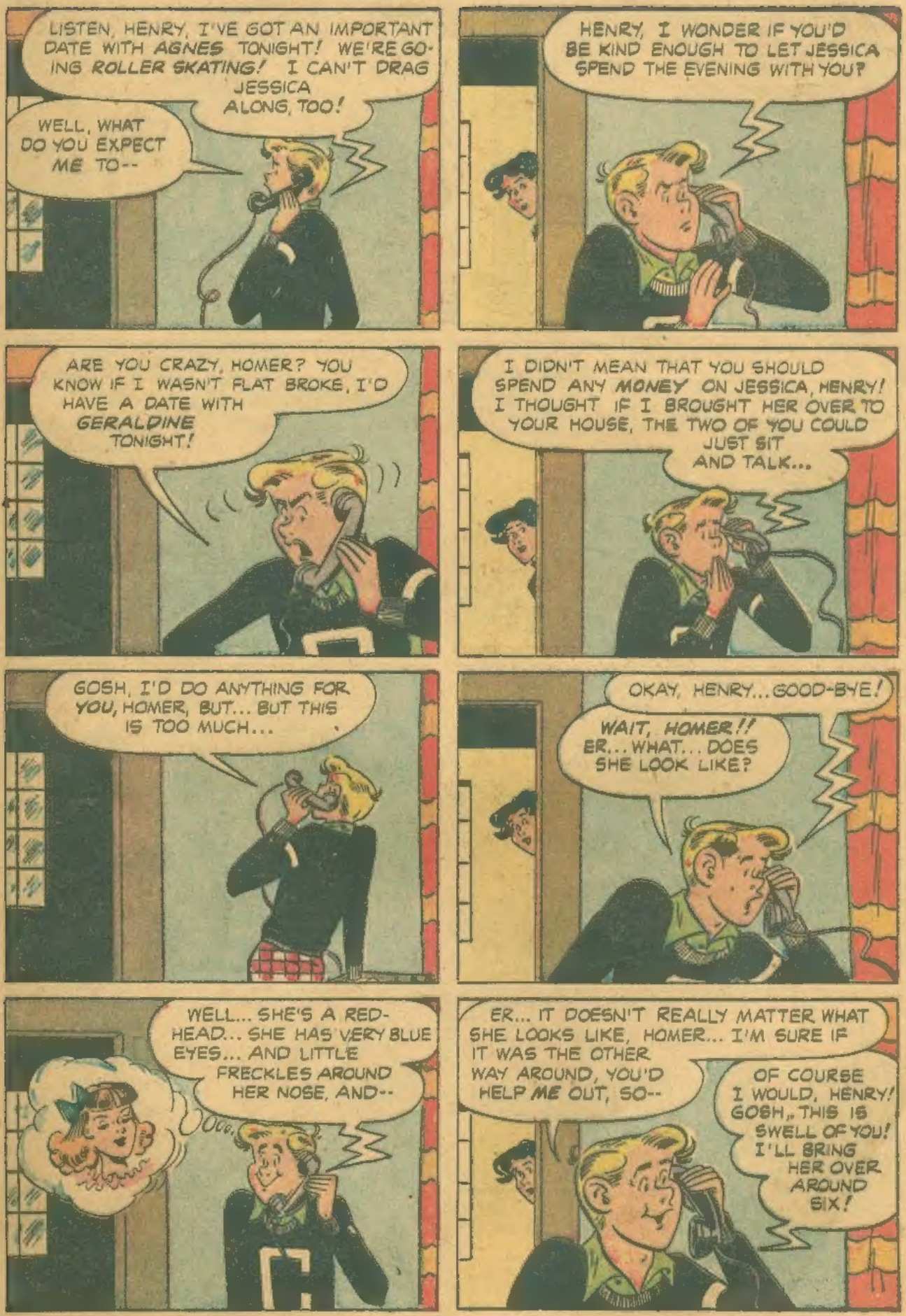
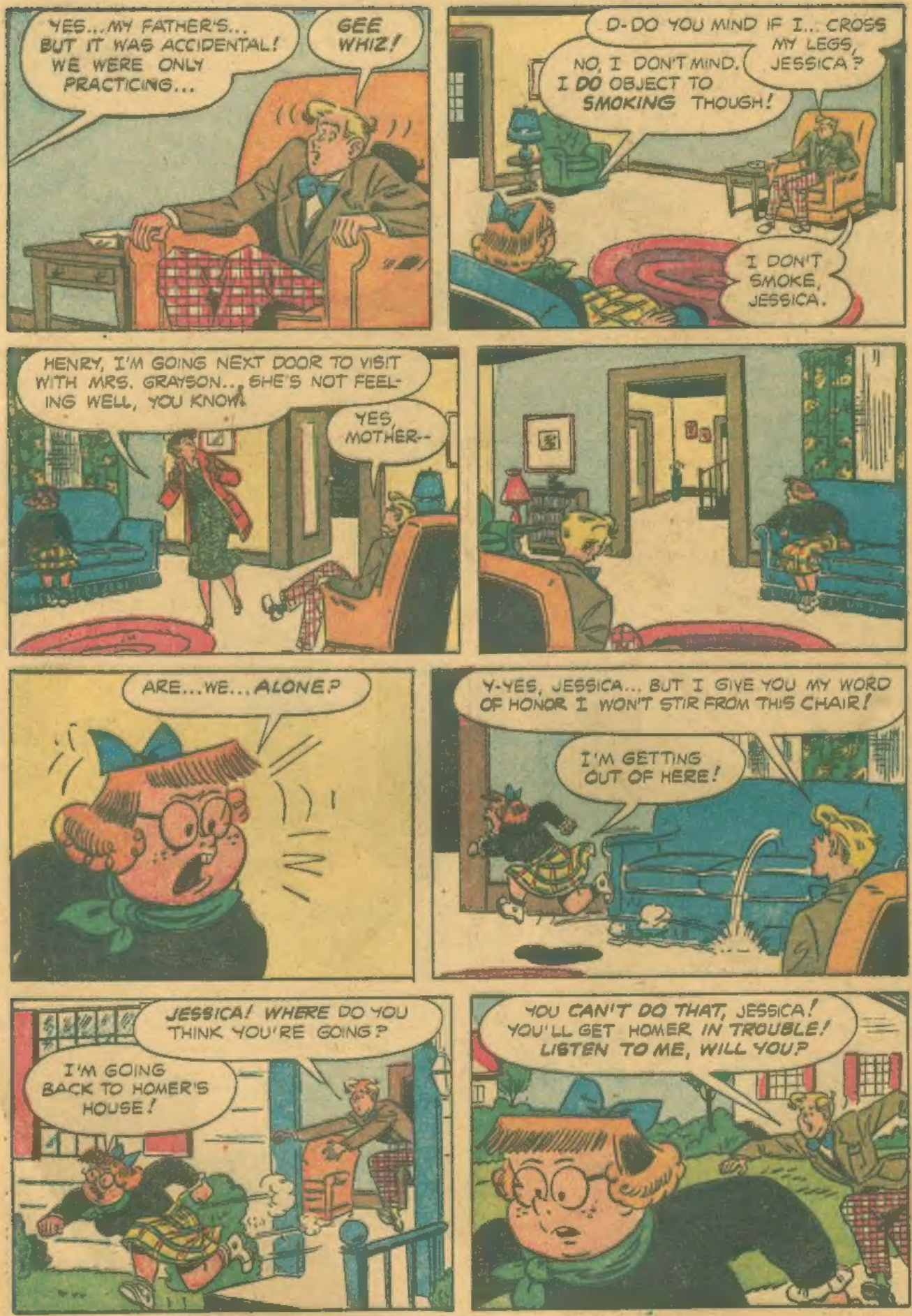
HENRY ALDRICH
RIN-NG!
THERE'S THE PHONE, HENRY!
IT COULD BE FOR YOU, MARY!
YOU'RE CLOSER TO IT THAN I AM!
BUT I'M LYING DOWN, MARY! THAT MAKES UP THE DIFFERENCE!
OH, ALL RIGHT!!
SOMEDAY THEY'RE GOING TO INVENT A PHONE THAT HOLLERS A PERSON'S NAME INSTEAD OF JUST RINGING...
HELLO? YES...


♫
♫♫
ER... WHO CALLED, MARY?
HOMER.
HOMER? WHERE IS HE? WHAT--?
HE'S ON THE PHONE! HE'S WAITING FOR YOU...
GEE WHIZ! WHAT A DIRTY TRICK!
HELLO, HOMER!
GOSH, HENRY, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
LISTEN, HENRY, WOULD YOU BE AT ALL INTERESTED IN SAVING MY LIFE?
GEE WHIZ, HOMER, WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
IT'S MY COUSIN JESSICA! SHE AND HER MOTHER ARE PASSING THROUGH TOWN AND THEY'RE GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT OUR HOUSE... AND MY MOTHER EXPECTS ME TO ENTERTAIN JESSICA THIS EVENING...
WELL... WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO--

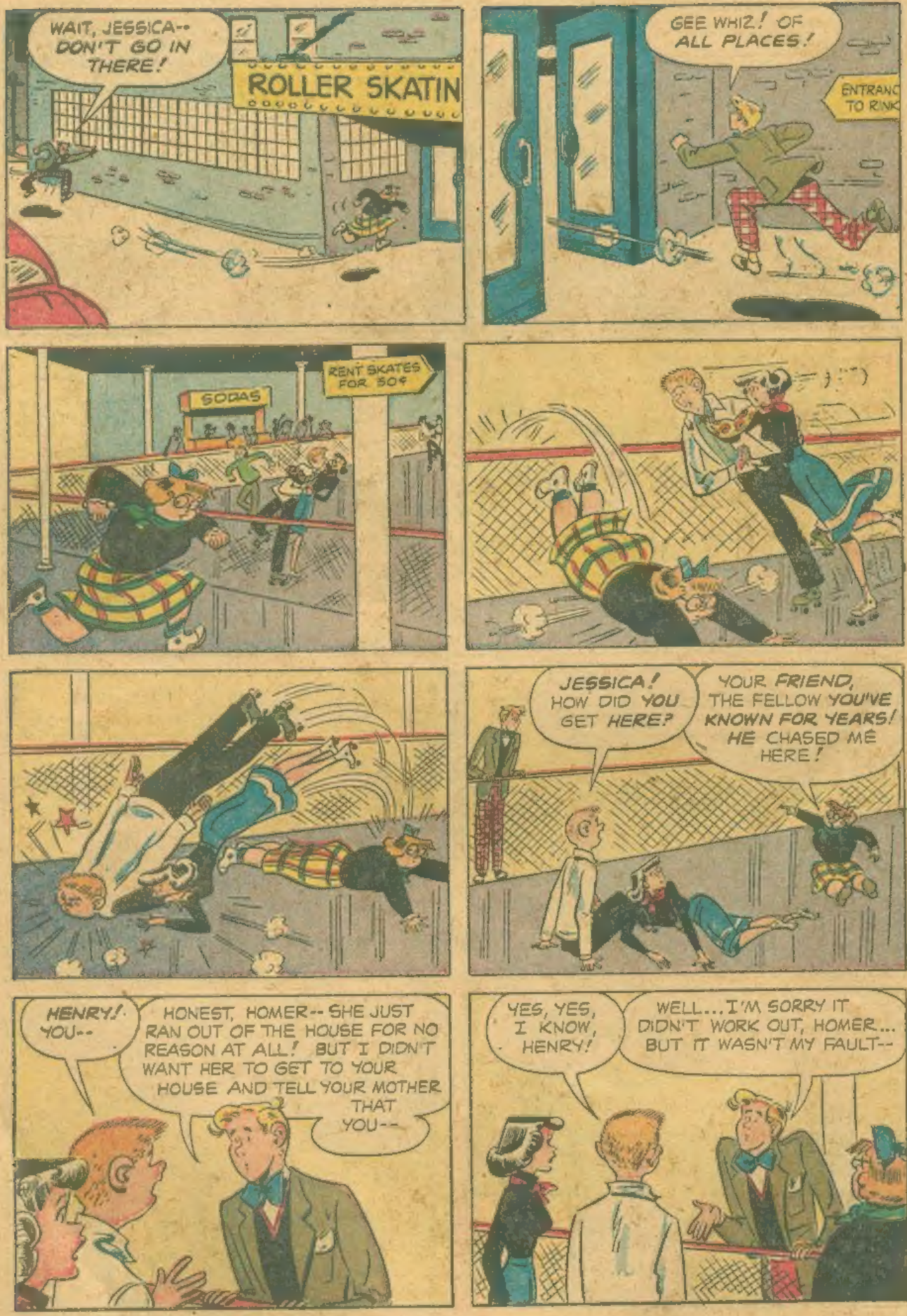

LISTEN, HENRY, I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT DATE WITH AGNES TONIGHT! WE'RE GOING ROLLER SKATING! I CAN'T DRAG JESSICA ALONG, TOO!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO--
HENRY, I WONDER IF YOU'D BE KIND ENOUGH TO LET JESSICA SPEND THE EVENING WITH YOU?
ARE YOU CRAZY, HOMER? YOU KNOW IF I WASN'T FLAT BROKE, I'D HAVE A DATE WITH GERALDINE TONIGHT!
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD SPEND ANY MONEY ON JESSICA, HENRY! I THOUGHT IF I BROUGHT HER OVER TO YOUR HOUSE, THE TWO OF YOU COULD JUST SIT AND TALK...
GOSH, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, HOMER, BUT... BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH...
OKAY, HENRY... GOOD-BYE!
WAIT, HOMER!! ER... WHAT... DOES SHE LOOK LIKE?
WELL... SHE'S A REDHEAD... SHE HAS VERY BLUE EYES... AND LITTLE FRECKLES AROUND HER NOSE, AND--
ER... IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE, HOMER... I'M SURE IF IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND, YOU'D HELP ME OUT, SO--
OF COURSE I WOULD, HENRY! GOSH, THIS IS SWELL OF YOU! I'LL BRING HER OVER AROUND SIX!

GEE WHIZ, THE FAVORS PEOPLE EXPECT YOU TO DO FOR THEM!
HONESTLY, JESSICA, NOBODY WOULD EVER DREAM YOU WERE RELATED TO HOMER!
NOBODY WOULD EVER DREAM HOMER HAD A FRIEND LIKE YOU, HENRY!
A QUARTER AFTER SIX...
RIN-NG!
THERE'S THE DOORBELL! MOTHER IS DOWNSTAIRS... SHE'LL ANSWER IT.
HENRY!
COMING, MOTHER!
HI, HENRY!
HI, HOMER! WHERE'S JESSICA?
ER... THOSE ARE ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, JESSICA... THEY'RE MADE OF PAPER!
!SNIFF!
JESSICA, THIS IS HENRY...
HELLO.
HENRY, JESSICA.
HOW DO YOU DO!
WELL... I GUESS I'D BETTER BE RUNNING ALONG! I-I HOPE YOU TWO ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, HOMER?

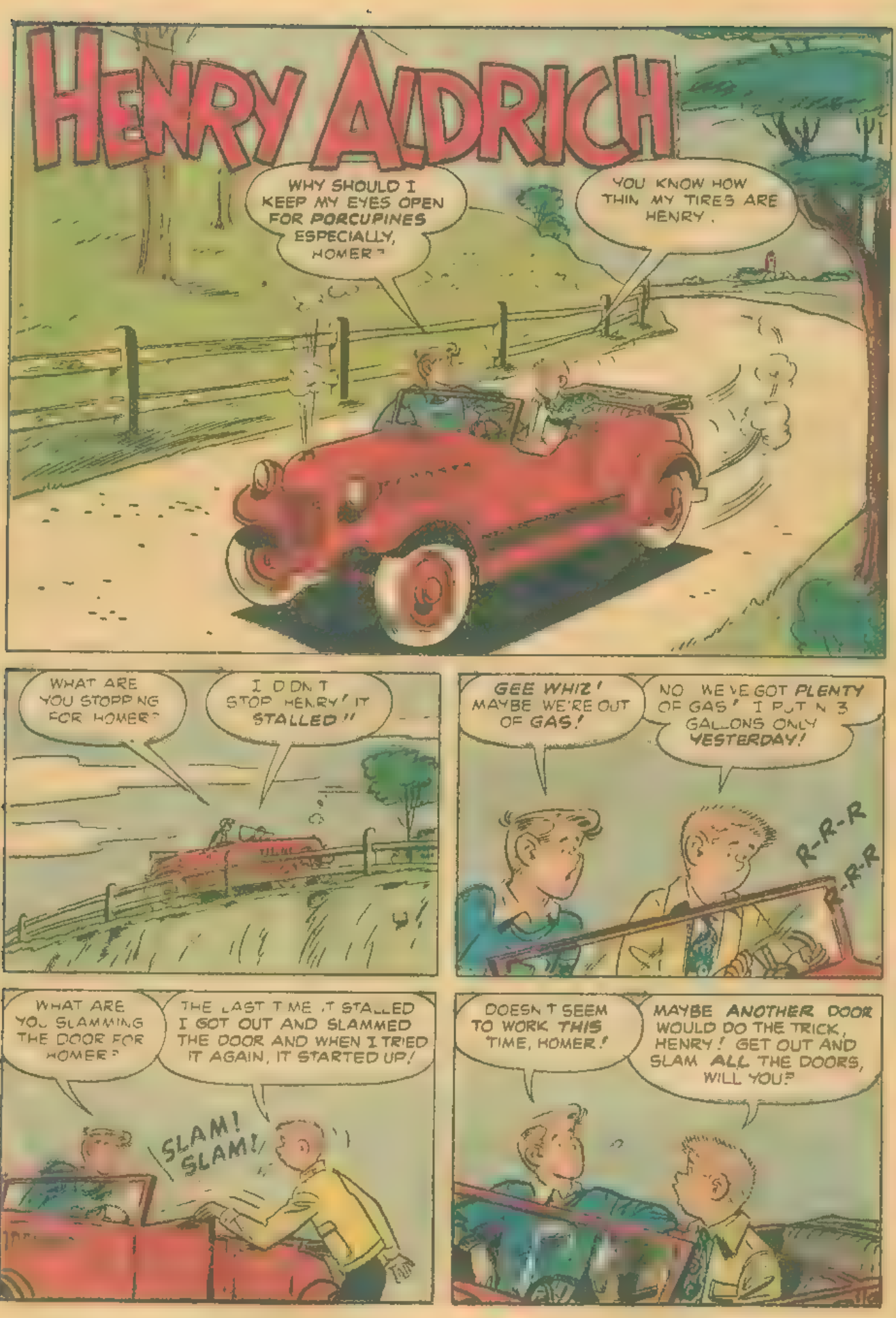
I-I'VE GOT A VERY IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT, JESSICA! BUT I'LL BE BACK EARLY TO PICK YOU UP!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE ALL ALONE?..
...WITH A STRANGE MAN?
LISTEN, JESSICA, I'VE KNOWN HENRY FOR YEARS! ANYWAY, HIS MOTHER IS HERE, TOO!
JESSICA IS RIGHT, HOMER! MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T--
HENRY IS WONDERFUL COMPANY, JESSICA! HIS MOTHER IS, TOO! THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL TO WORRY ABOUT...
YOU SIT DOWN OVER THERE!
YES... SURE.
I KNOW SOME JUJITSU HOLDS.. MY FATHER TAUGHT TO ME... I CAN EASILY FRACTURE A MAN'S SPINE!
HAVE YOU... EVER FRACTURED A MAN'S SPINE, JESSICA?


YES...MY FATHER'S... BUT IT WAS ACCIDENTAL! WE WERE ONLY PRACTICING...
GEE WHIZ!
D-DO YOU MIND IF I... CROSS MY LEGS, JESSICA?
NO, I DON'T MIND. I DO OBJECT TO SMOKING THOUGH!
I DON'T SMOKE, JESSICA.
HENRY, I'M GOING NEXT DOOR TO VISIT WITH MRS. GRAYSON... SHE'S NOT FEELING WELL, YOU KNOW.
YES, MOTHER--
ARE...WE...ALONE?
Y-YES, JESSICA... BUT I GIVE YOU MY WORD OF HONOR I WON'T STIR FROM THIS CHAIR!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
JESSICA! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I'M GOING BACK TO HOMER'S HOUSE!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, JESSICA! YOU'LL GET HOMER IN TROUBLE! LISTEN TO ME, WILL YOU?

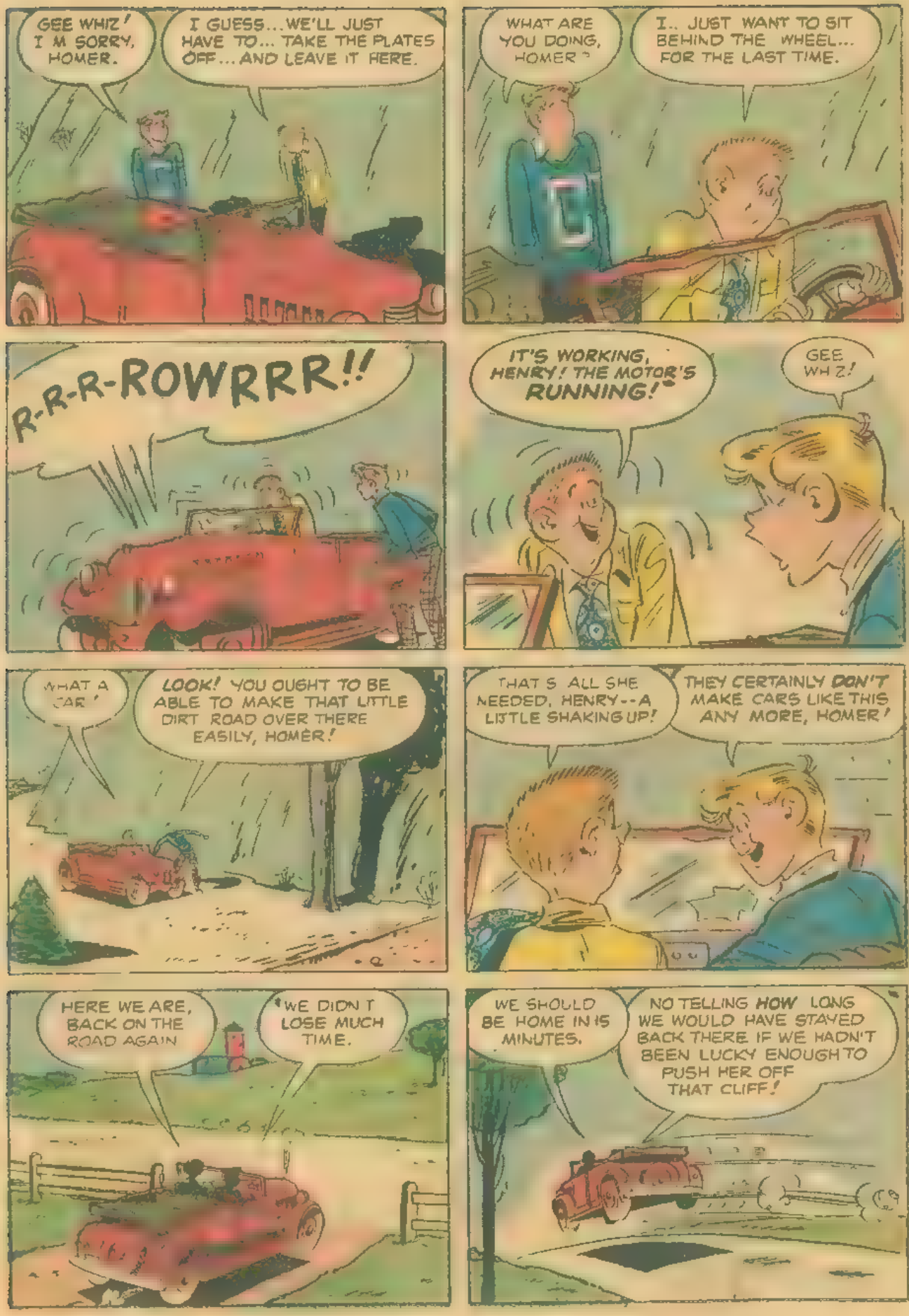
PLEASE, JESSICA!
LISTEN!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!
GEE WHIZ!
WUMP!
I GUESS THAT'LL TEACH YOU!
UGH!
JESSICA!!
HOMER IS SURE TO BLAME ME FOR THIS!
JESSICA!!
POST NO BILLS
MY SPINE SEEMS TO BE ALL RIGHT.
JESSICA!
JESSICA, PLEASE! LET'S JUST STAND AND TALK FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES! I WANT TO TELL YOU WHY--
GET AWAY FROM ME!


WAIT, JESSICA-- DON'T GO IN THERE!
ROLLER SKATIN
GEE WHIZ! OF ALL PLACES!
ENTRANC TO RINK
SODAS
RENT SKATES FOR 50¢
JESSICA! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
YOUR FRIEND, THE FELLOW YOU'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS! HE CHASED ME HERE!
HENRY! YOU--
HONEST, HOMER-- SHE JUST RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR NO REASON AT ALL! BUT I DIDN'T WANT HER TO GET TO YOUR HOUSE AND TELL YOUR MOTHER THAT YOU--
YES, YES, I KNOW, HENRY!
WELL... I'M SORRY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT, HOMER... BUT IT WASN'T MY FAULT--

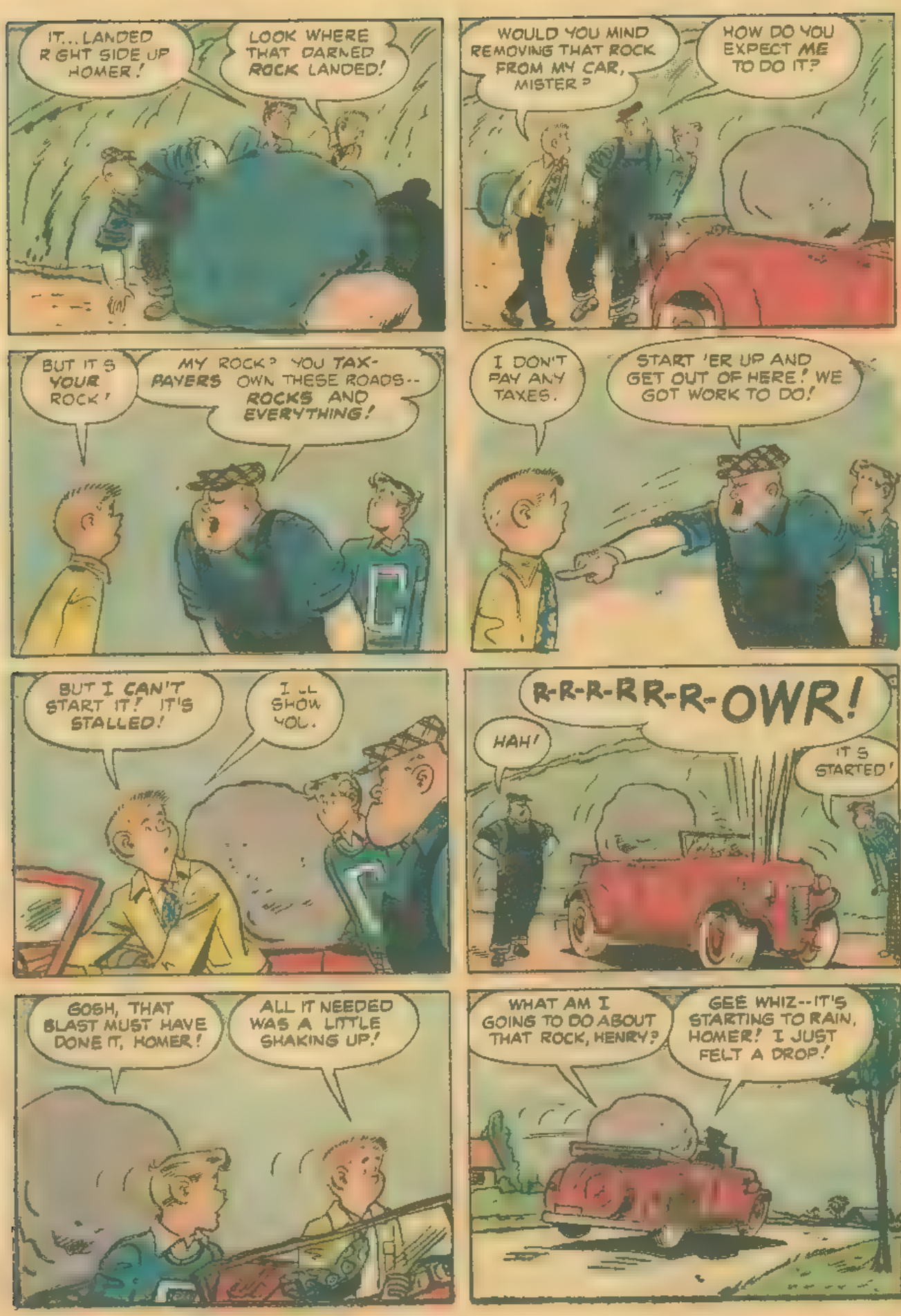
LISTEN, HENRY, WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE WITH US?
I THINK I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY--
THANKS, HOMER, BUT I DON'T THINK I'D ENJOY SKATING... MY BACK BOTHERS ME A LITTLE...
COULD BE A LOT WORSE!
NEXT DAY..
RIN-NG!
HENRY! THE PHONE! AND DON'T SAY YOU'RE NOT CLOSEST TO IT! YOU'RE SITTING UP NOW! REMEMBER?
OKAY, MARY.. OKAY.
RIN-NG
HI, HENRY! THIS IS HOMER.. HOW'S EVERYTHING?
OH, OKAY, HOMER. HOW'S EVERYTHING WITH YOU?
FINE, HENRY... LISTEN, HENRY, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I STRAIGHTENED JESSICA OUT ON YOU FINALLY! SHE'S ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED NOW THAT YOU'RE OKAY! IN FACT SHE LIKES YOU NOW!
OH WONDERFUL!
AND LISTEN, HENRY, HER MOTHER HAS DECIDED THAT THEY CAN STAY OVER A FEW MORE DAYS, AND JESSICA ASKED ME TO ASK YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING TONIGHT...
the END


HENRY ALDRICH
WHY SHOULD I KEEP MY EYES OPEN FOR PORCUPINES ESPECIALLY, HOMER?
YOU KNOW HOW THIN MY TIRES ARE HENRY.
WHAT ARE YOU STOPPING FOR HOMER?
I DIDN'T STOP HENRY! IT STALLED!!
GEE WHIZ! MAYBE WE'RE OUT OF GAS!
NO WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF GAS! I PUT IN 3 GALLONS ONLY YESTERDAY!
R-R-R
R-R-R
WHAT ARE YOU SLAMMING THE DOOR FOR HOMER?
THE LAST TIME IT STALLED I GOT OUT AND SLAMMED THE DOOR AND WHEN I TRIED IT AGAIN, IT STARTED UP!
SLAM! SLAM!
DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK THIS TIME, HOMER!
MAYBE ANOTHER DOOR WOULD DO THE TRICK, HENRY! GET OUT AND SLAM ALL THE DOORS, WILL YOU?

SLAM!
TRY THAT ONE!
K-R-R-R R-R-R
NO
WE'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, HOMER! DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO PUSH HER OVER TO THE SIDE?
MIGHT AS WELL.
UGH! ARE YOU SURE THE BRAKE IS OFF, HOMER?
IT'S A HEAVY CAR... THEY DON'T MAKE 'EM LIKE THIS ANY MORE!
OH!
WAIT, HENRY! WE'RE GOING OVER TOO FAR!
CRASH!
GEE WHIZ!
GEE WHIZ!
IT LANDED RIGHT SIDE UP, HOMER!
YES, BUT I'LL BET IT'S ALL BANGED UP INSIDE!
WHAT LUCK!
IT'LL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I GET 15 DOLLARS TOGETHER AGAIN!

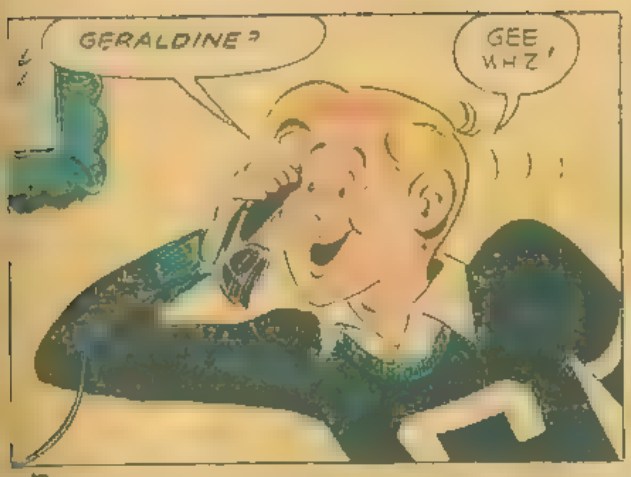

GEE WHIZ! I M SORRY, HOMER.
I GUESS...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO... TAKE THE PLATES OFF... AND LEAVE IT HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HOMER?
I.. JUST WANT TO SIT BEHIND THE WHEEL... FOR THE LAST TIME.
R-R-R-ROWRRR!!
IT'S WORKING, HENRY! THE MOTOR'S RUNNING!
GEE WHIZ!
WHAT A CAR!
LOOK! YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT LITTLE DIRT ROAD OVER THERE EASILY, HOMER!
THAT S ALL SHE NEEDED, HENRY--A LITTLE SHAKING UP!
THEY CERTAINLY DON'T MAKE CARS LIKE THIS ANY MORE, HOMER!
HERE WE ARE, BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN
WE DIDN T LOSE MUCH TIME.
WE SHOULD BE HOME IN 15 MINUTES.
NO TELLING HOW LONG WE WOULD HAVE STAYED BACK THERE IF WE HADN'T BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO PUSH HER OFF THAT CLIFF!

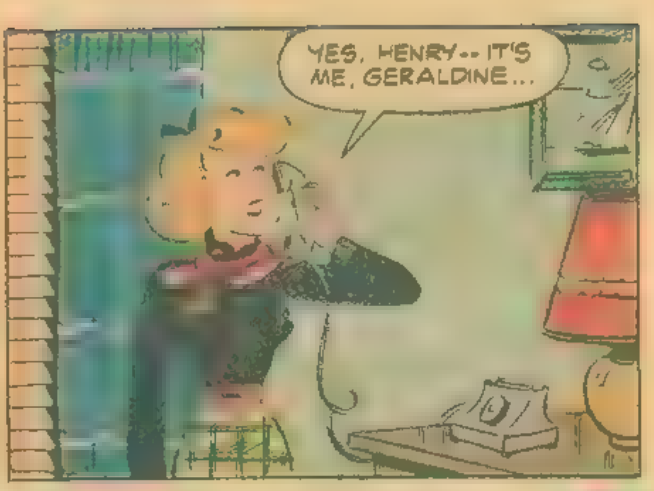
ROUGH SEAS AHEAD, HOMER!
PROCEED WITH CAUTION
ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION
WHAT'S HE WAVING THAT FLAG FOR?
PROBABLY WANTS US TO TAKE IT EASY.
HEY!
WELL, WE ARE TAKING IT EASY.
HEY!!
WHAT DO WE STOP FOR, HOMER? DON'T TELL ME WE RE—
EEP! STALLED AGAIN!
R-R-R-R
R-R-R-R
YOU CRAZY FOOLS!
WE RE STUCK AGAIN, HENRY, AND THERE'S NO CLIFF AROUND HERE TO PUSH HER OFF!
HOMER! WHAT'S THAT FELLOW YELLING AT US FOR?
GET OUT OF THAT CAR! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THEY'RE GOING TO BLAST!!
EEE WHAT?
BOOM!
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SIGNAL HIM TO HOLD IT!
THERE'S A BIG ROCK THERE THAT WE HAVE TO BLAST OUT.
BOOM!

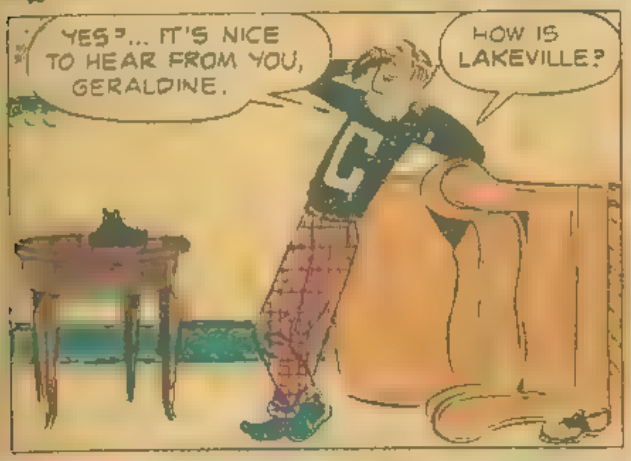

IT... LANDED RIGHT SIDE UP HOMER!
LOOK WHERE THAT DARNED ROCK LANDED!
WOULD YOU MIND REMOVING THAT ROCK FROM MY CAR, MISTER?
HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO IT?
BUT IT'S YOUR ROCK!
MY ROCK? YOU TAX-PAYERS OWN THESE ROADS-- ROCKS AND EVERYTHING!
I DON'T PAY ANY TAXES.
START 'ER UP AND GET OUT OF HERE! WE GOT WORK TO DO!
BUT I CAN'T START IT! IT'S STALLED!
I'LL SHOW YOU.
R-R-R-RR-R-OWR!
HAH!
IT'S STARTED!
GOSH, THAT BLAST MUST HAVE DONE IT, HOMER!
ALL IT NEEDED WAS A LITTLE SHAKING UP!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT ROCK, HENRY?
GEE WHIZ-- IT'S STARTING TO RAIN, HOMER! I JUST FELT A DROP!

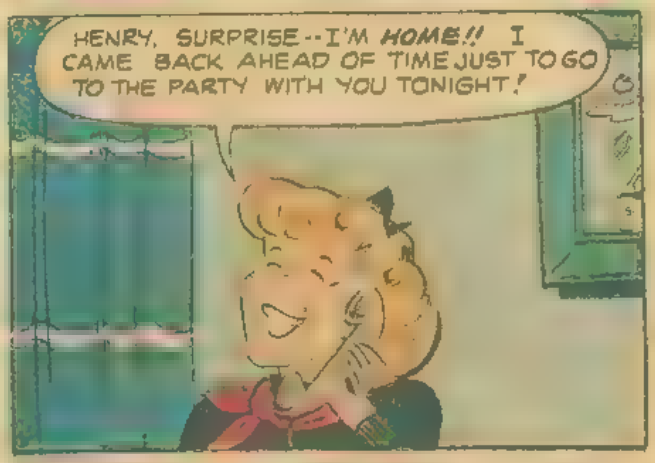
AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE!
IT'S ONLY A THUNDERSHOWER, HOMER!
HOMER! AGAIN?
YEP... STALLED!
LOOK AT THAT LIGHTNING!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO NOW, HENRY!
BAM!
WH- WHAT HAPPENED?
ARE YOU OKAY, HENRY?
LOOK, HOMER! LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ROCK! IT'S JUST A PILE OF GRAVEL!!
OBOY! WE CAN SHOVEL IT OUT NOW!
LISTEN, HOMER, SEE IF YOU CAN START THE CAR NOW!
SEE ALL IT NEEDED WAS A LITTLE SHAKING UP!
THEY JUST DON'T MAKE CARS LIKE THIS ANY MORE, HENRY!
THE END

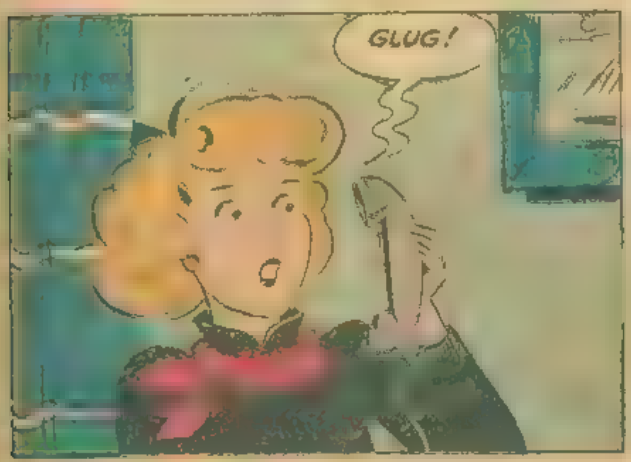
HENRY ALDRICH
R-RING R-RING
HENRY OH, HENRY, WOULD YOU ANSWER THAT, PLEASE?
YAWN!
R-RING RING
YES, MOTHER, I'LL GET IT.
R-RING RING
OOP!
WHUMP!
AAAH HELLO?

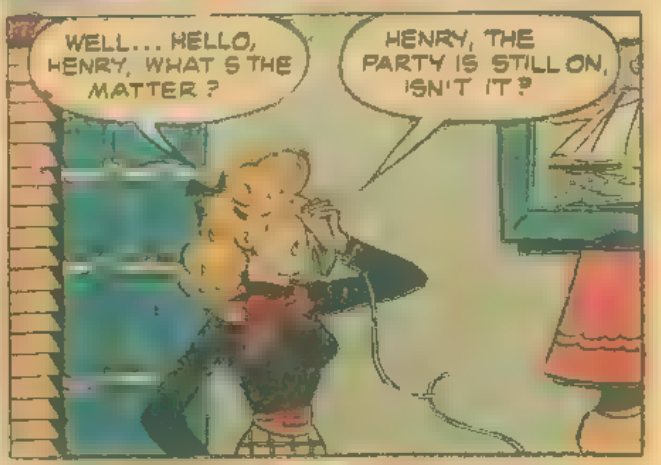

GERALDINE?
GEE WHZ!


YES, HENRY-- IT'S ME, GERALDINE...

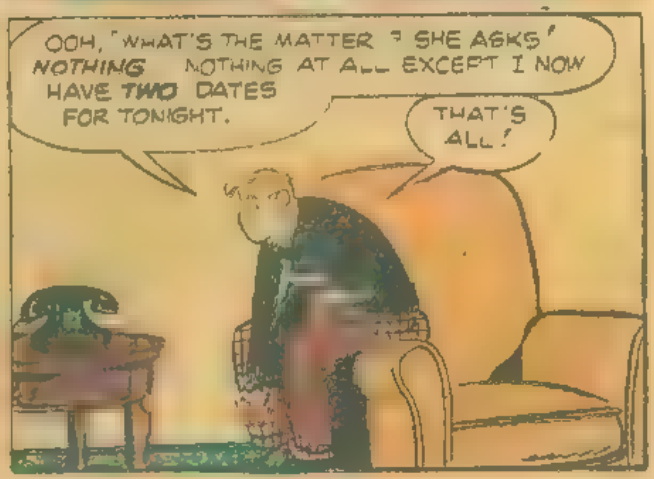

YES?... IT'S NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU, GERALDINE.
HOW IS LAKEVILLE?

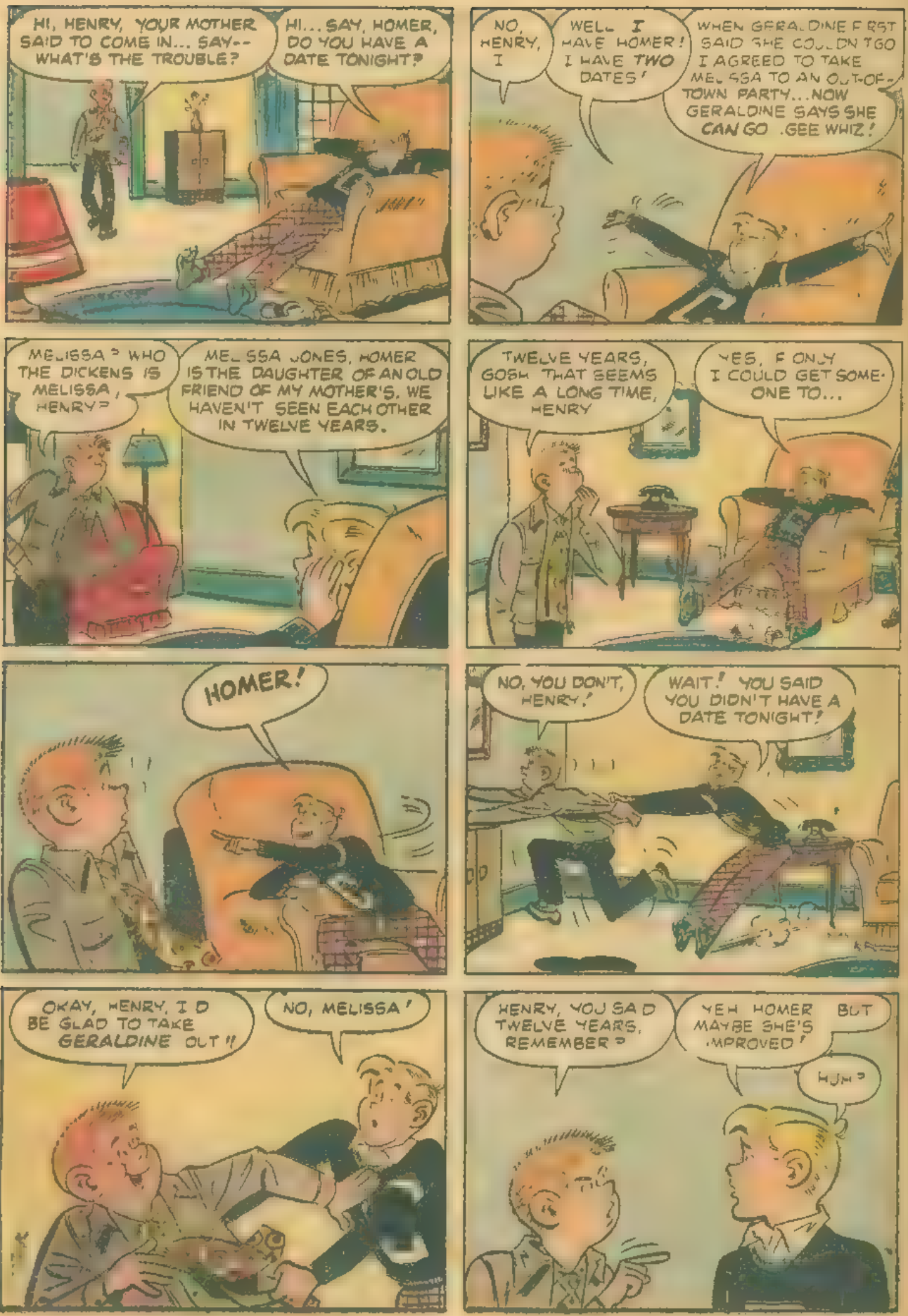

HENRY, SURPRISE--I'M HOME!! I CAME BACK AHEAD OF TIME JUST TO GO TO THE PARTY WITH YOU TONIGHT!

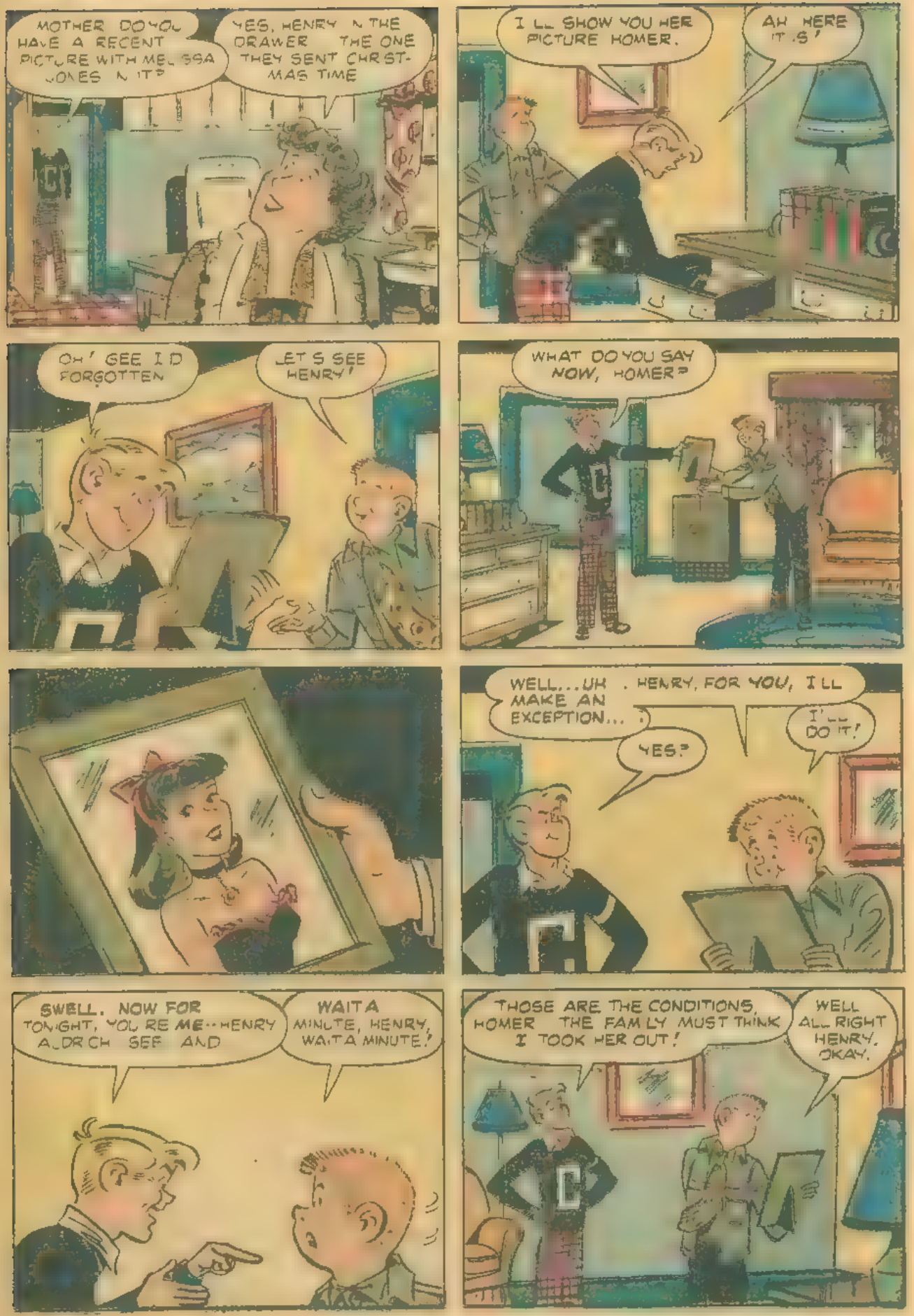

GLUG!

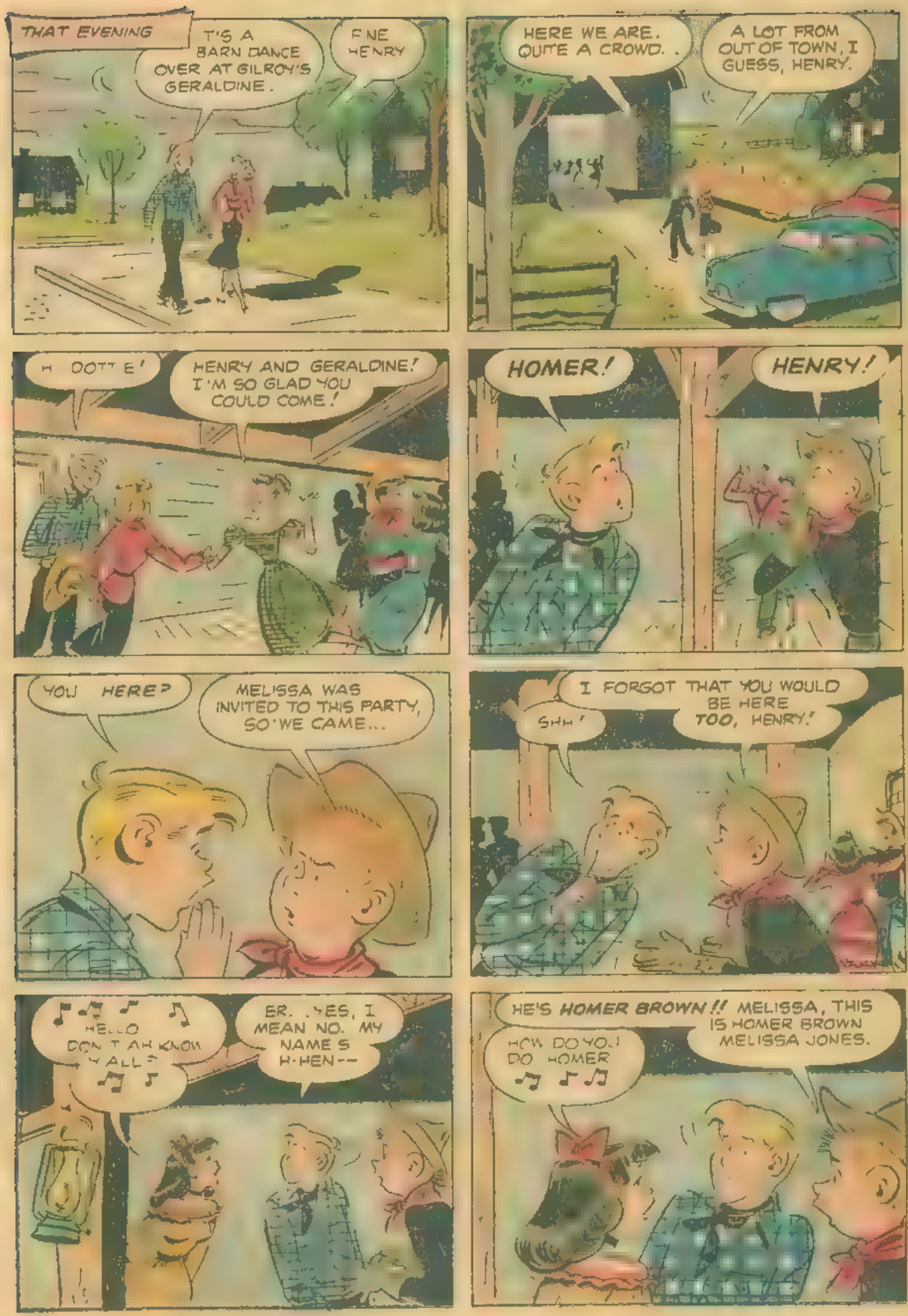

WELL... HELLO, HENRY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HENRY, THE PARTY IS STILL ON, ISN'T IT?

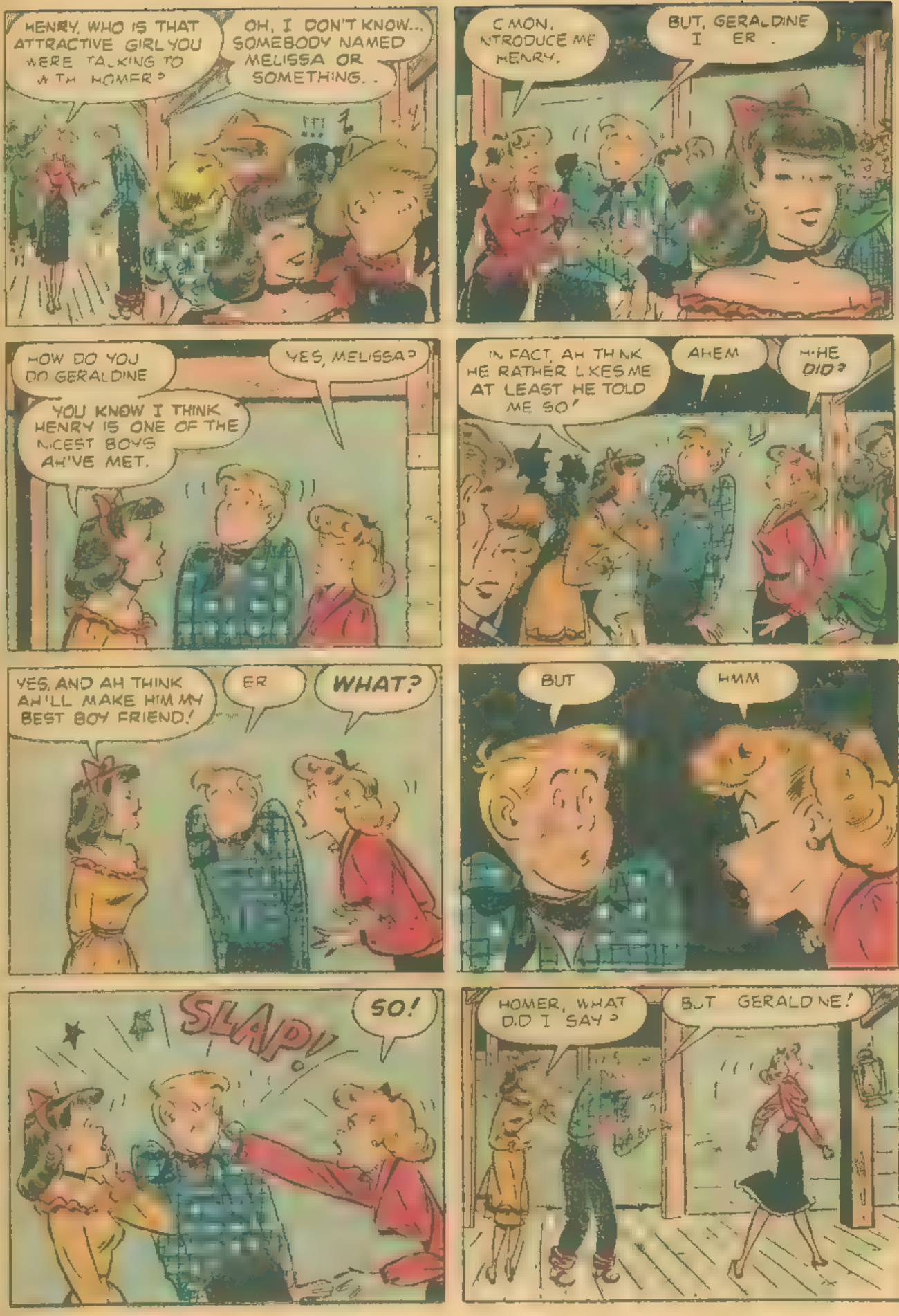
Y-YES, GERALDINE YES SURE SEE YOU AT EIGHT... G'BYE...

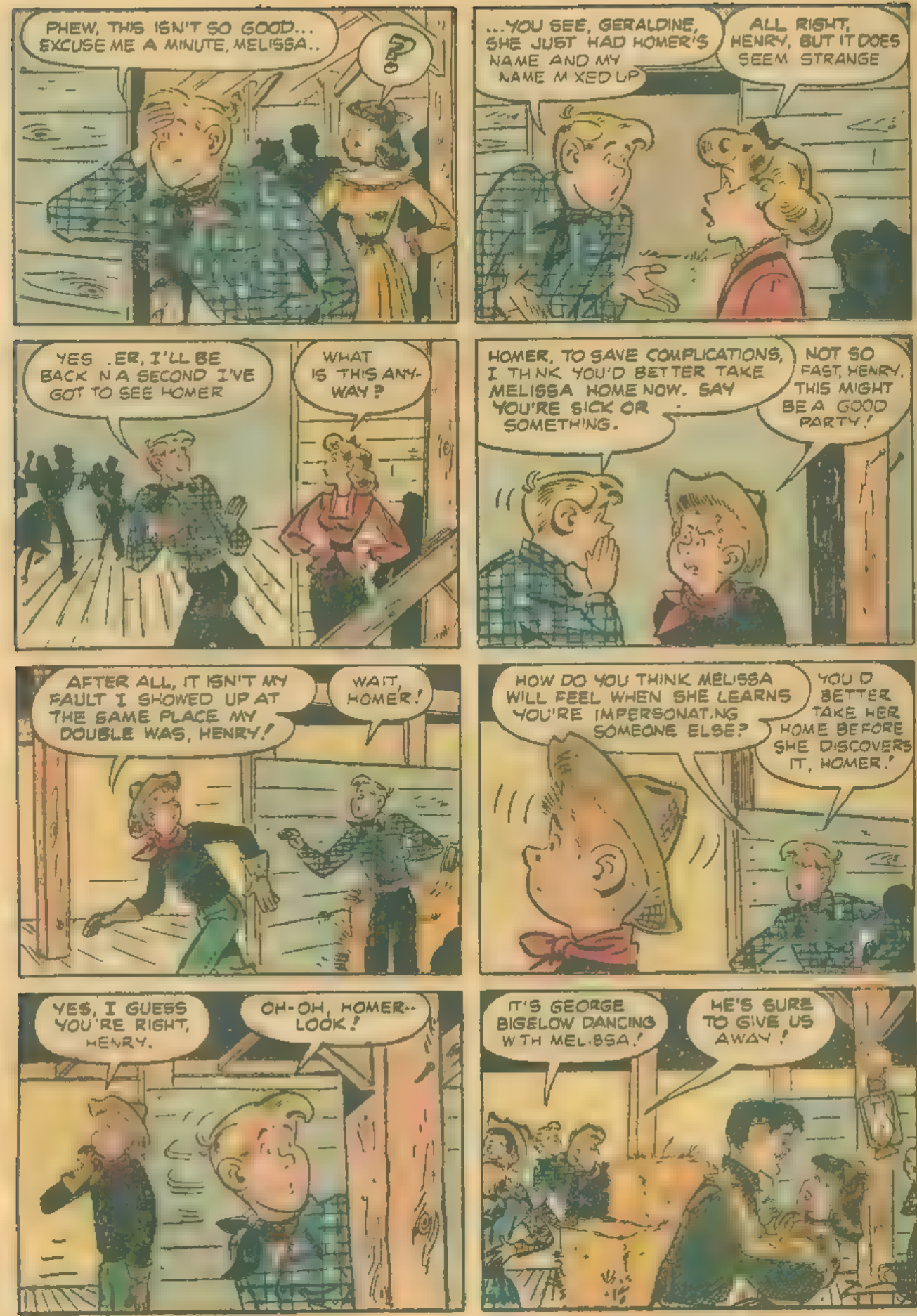

OOH, 'WHAT'S THE MATTER?' SHE ASKS' NOTHING NOTHING AT ALL EXCEPT I NOW HAVE TWO DATES FOR TONIGHT.
THAT'S ALL!


HI, HENRY, YOUR MOTHER SAID TO COME IN... SAY-- WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
HI... SAY, HOMER, DO YOU HAVE A DATE TONIGHT?
NO, HENRY, I
WELL I HAVE HOMER! I HAVE TWO DATES!
WHEN GERALDINE FIRST SAID SHE COULDN'T GO I AGREED TO TAKE MELISSA TO AN OUT-OF-TOWN PARTY... NOW GERALDINE SAYS SHE CAN GO. GEE WHIZ!
MELISSA? WHO THE DICKENS IS MELISSA, HENRY?
MELISSA JONES, HOMER IS THE DAUGHTER OF AN OLD FRIEND OF MY MOTHER'S. WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN TWELVE YEARS.
TWELVE YEARS, GOSH THAT SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME, HENRY
YES, IF ONLY I COULD GET SOMEONE TO...
HOMER!
NO, YOU DON'T, HENRY!
WAIT! YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE A DATE TONIGHT!
OKAY, HENRY, I'D BE GLAD TO TAKE GERALDINE OUT!!
NO, MELISSA!
HENRY, YOU SAID TWELVE YEARS, REMEMBER?
YEH HOMER BUT MAYBE SHE'S IMPROVED!
HUH?

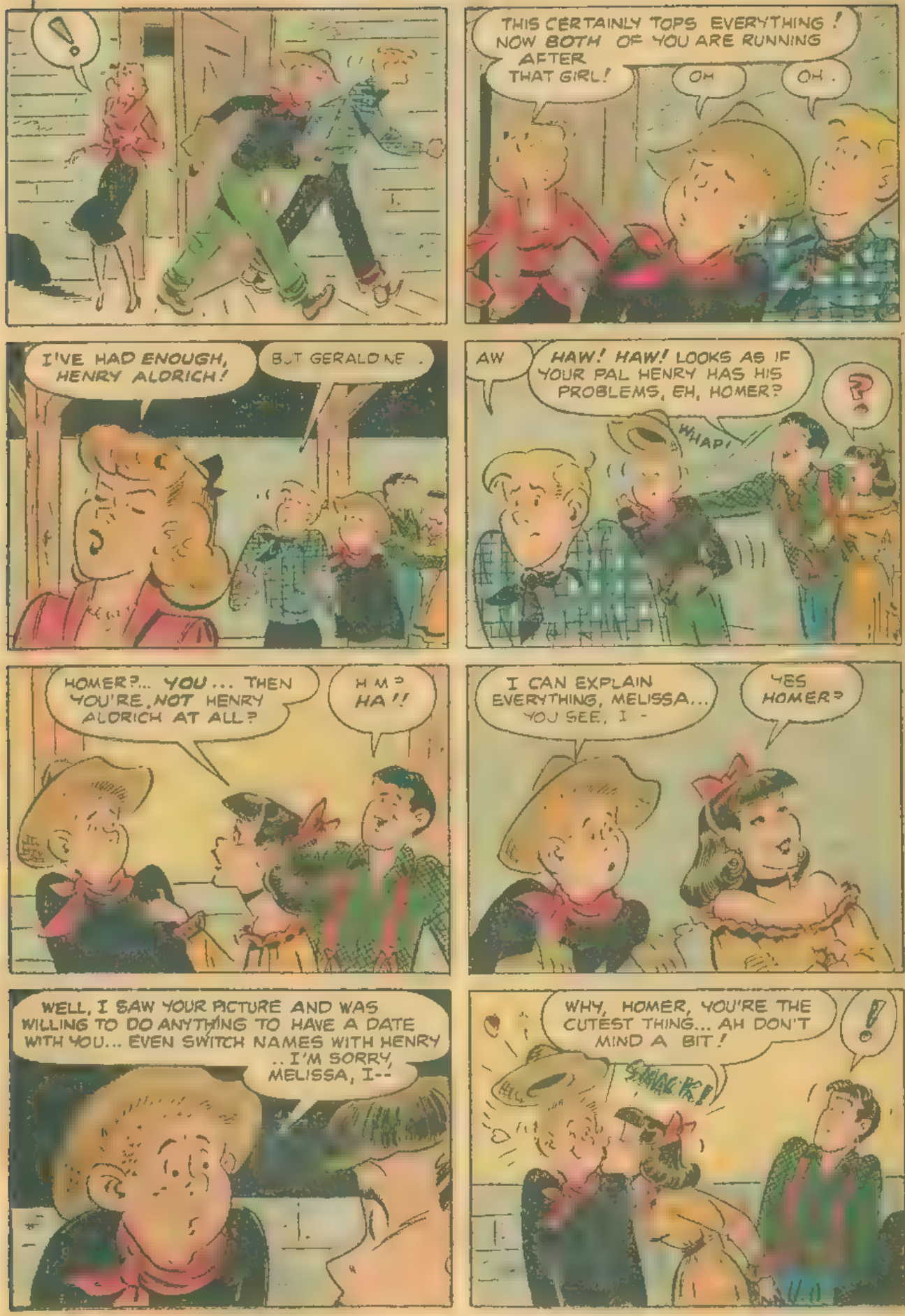

MOTHER DO YOU HAVE A RECENT PICTURE WITH MELISSA JONES IN IT?
YES, HENRY IN THE DRAWER THE ONE THEY SENT CHRISTMAS TIME
I'LL SHOW YOU HER PICTURE HOMER.
AH HERE IT IS!
OH! GEE I'D FORGOTTEN
LET'S SEE HENRY!
WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW, HOMER?
WELL...UH . HENRY, FOR YOU, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION...
YES?
I'LL DO IT!
SWELL. NOW FOR TONIGHT, YOU RE ME.. HENRY ALDRICH SEE AND
WAIT A MINUTE, HENRY, WAIT A MINUTE!
THOSE ARE THE CONDITIONS, HOMER THE FAMILY MUST THINK I TOOK HER OUT!
WELL ALL RIGHT HENRY. OKAY.

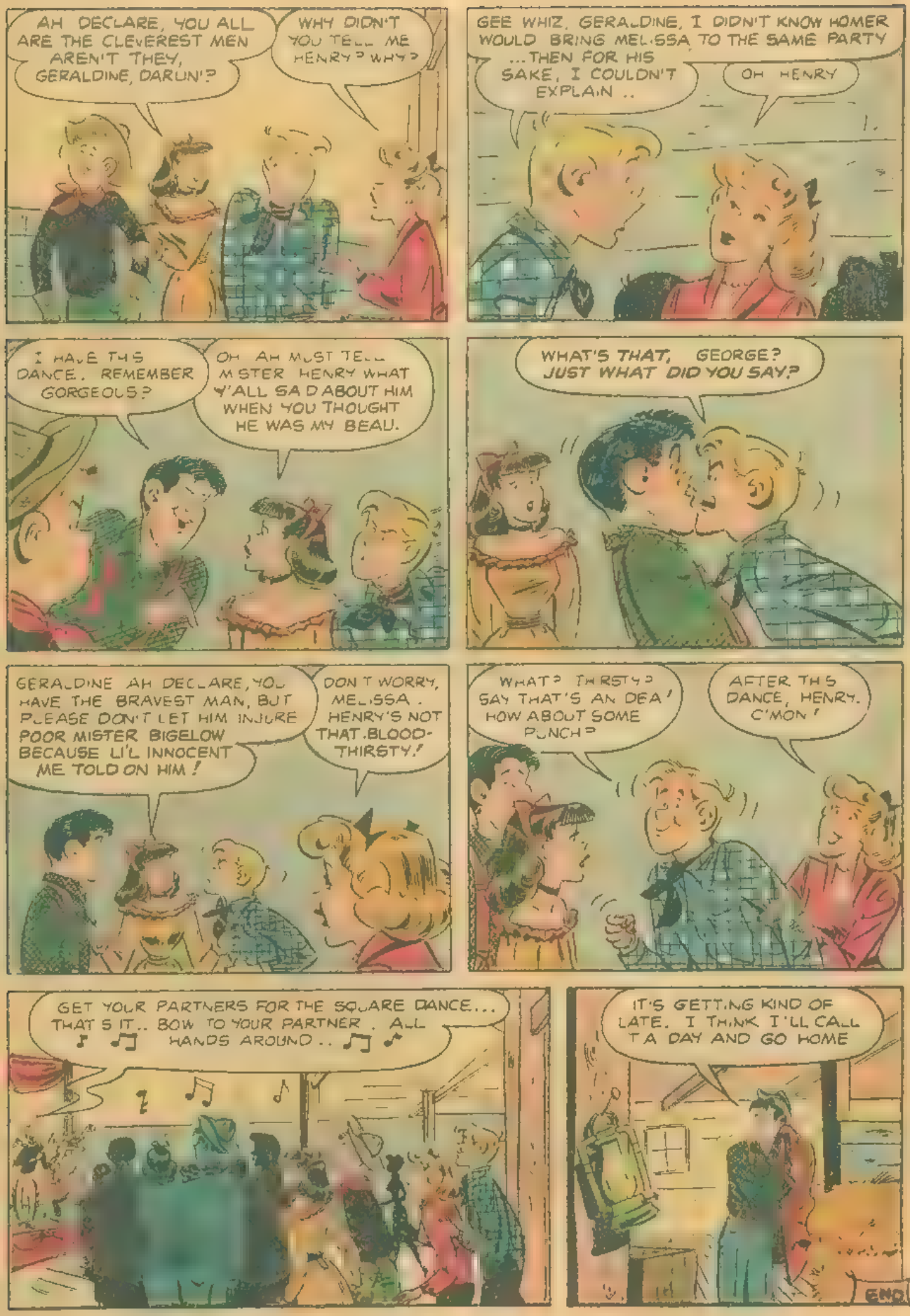

THAT EVENING
T'S A BARN DANCE OVER AT GILROY'S GERALDINE.
F NE HENRY
HERE WE ARE. QUITE A CROWD. .
A LOT FROM OUT OF TOWN, I GUESS, HENRY.
H DOTT E!
HENRY AND GERALDINE! I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME!
HOMER!
HENRY!
YOU HERE?
MELISSA WAS INVITED TO THIS PARTY, SO WE CAME...
SHH!
I FORGOT THAT YOU WOULD BE HERE TOO, HENRY!
HELLO DON T AH KNOW Y ALL?
ER. .YES, I MEAN NO. MY NAME S H-HEN--
HE'S HOMER BROWN!! MELISSA, THIS IS HOMER BROWN MELISSA JONES.
HOW DO YOU DO HOMER


HENRY, WHO IS THAT ATTRACTIVE GIRL YOU WERE TALKING TO WITH HOMER?
OH, I DON'T KNOW... SOMEBODY NAMED MELISSA OR SOMETHING..
!!!
C'MON, INTRODUCE ME HENRY.
BUT, GERALDINE I ER .
HOW DO YOU DO GERALDINE
YES, MELISSA?
YOU KNOW I THINK HENRY IS ONE OF THE NICEST BOYS AH'VE MET.
IN FACT, AH THINK HE RATHER LIKES ME AT LEAST HE TOLD ME SO!
AHEM
HE DID?
YES, AND AH THINK AH'LL MAKE HIM MY BEST BOY FRIEND!
ER
WHAT?
BUT
HMM
SLAP!
SO!
HOMER, WHAT DID I SAY?
BUT GERALDINE!

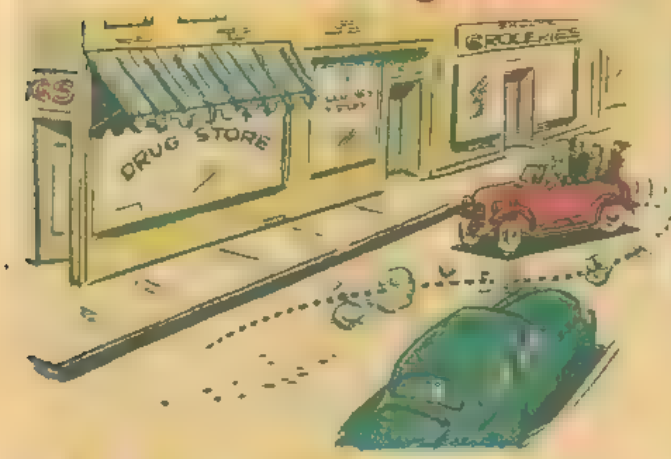

PHEW, THIS ISN'T SO GOOD... EXCUSE ME A MINUTE, MELISSA..
?
...YOU SEE, GERALDINE, SHE JUST HAD HOMER'S NAME AND MY NAME M XED UP
ALL RIGHT, HENRY, BUT IT DOES SEEM STRANGE
YES .ER, I'LL BE BACK N A SECOND I'VE GOT TO SEE HOMER
WHAT IS THIS ANY-WAY?
HOMER, TO SAVE COMPLICATIONS, I TH NK YOU'D BETTER TAKE MELISSA HOME NOW. SAY YOU'RE SICK OR SOMETHING.
NOT SO FAST, HENRY. THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD PARTY!
AFTER ALL, IT ISN'T MY FAULT I SHOWED UP AT THE SAME PLACE MY DOUBLE WAS, HENRY!
WAIT, HOMER!
HOW DO YOU THINK MELISSA WILL FEEL WHEN SHE LEARNS YOU'RE IMPERSONAT.NG SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU D BETTER TAKE HER HOME BEFORE SHE DISCOVERS IT, HOMER!
YES, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, HENRY.
OH-OH, HOMER-- LOOK!
IT'S GEORGE BIGELOW DANCING WTH MEL.SSA!
HE'S SURE TO GIVE US AWAY!

HOMER, WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM AWAY BEFORE SHE LEARNS ANYTHING ABOUT US!
HMM . HMM
OH, MR. BIGELOW, DO YOU KNOW HENRY ALDRICH?
ZIP
HENRY ALDRICH? THAT CHARACTER? SURE, AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HIM .
PLEASE DO...
OH, GEORGE
HE'S A-- ULP!
YES?
WHO ?
IF THEY WANT TO CUT IN, THEY CAN AT LEAST HAVE THE COURTESY TO SHOW THEMSELVES, EH, MELISSA?
YES GEORGE!
WHAT'LL WE DO, HENRY?
THIS CALLS FOR DRASTIC ACTION! C'MON, HOMER!


!
THIS CERTAINLY TOPS EVERYTHING ! NOW BOTH OF YOU ARE RUNNING AFTER THAT GIRL!
OH
OH .
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, HENRY ALDRICH!
BUT GERALDINE .
AW
HAW! HAW! LOOKS AS IF YOUR PAL HENRY HAS HIS PROBLEMS, EH, HOMER?
WHAP!
?
HOMER?... YOU ... THEN YOU'RE, NOT HENRY ALDRICH AT ALL?
H M ? HA !!
I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, MELISSA... YOU SEE, I -
YES HOMER?
WELL, I SAW YOUR PICTURE AND WAS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO HAVE A DATE WITH YOU... EVEN SWITCH NAMES WITH HENRY .. I'M SORRY, MELISSA, I--
WHY, HOMER, YOU'RE THE CUTEST THING... AH DON'T MIND A BIT!
!
SMACK!

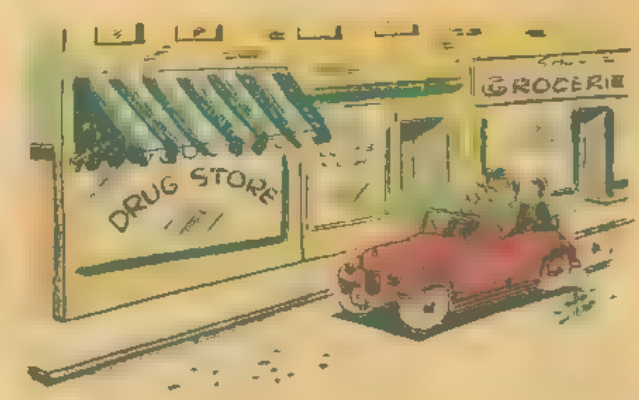

AH DECLARE, YOU ALL ARE THE CLEVEREST MEN AREN'T THEY, GERALDINE, DARUN'?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME HENRY? WHY?
GEE WHIZ, GERALDINE, I DIDN'T KNOW HOMER WOULD BRING MELISSA TO THE SAME PARTY ...THEN FOR HIS SAKE, I COULDN'T EXPLAIN ..
OH HENRY
I HAVE THIS DANCE. REMEMBER GORGEOUS?
OH AH MUST TELL MISTER HENRY WHAT Y'ALL SAID ABOUT HIM WHEN YOU THOUGHT HE WAS MY BEAU.
WHAT'S THAT, GEORGE? JUST WHAT DID YOU SAY?
GERALDINE AH DECLARE, YOU HAVE THE BRAVEST MAN, BUT PLEASE DON'T LET HIM INJURE POOR MISTER BIGELOW BECAUSE LI'L INNOCENT ME TOLD ON HIM!
DON'T WORRY, MELISSA. HENRY'S NOT THAT BLOOD-THIRSTY!
WHAT? THIRSTY? SAY THAT'S AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT SOME PUNCH?
AFTER THIS DANCE, HENRY. C'MON!
GET YOUR PARTNERS FOR THE SQUARE DANCE... THAT'S IT.. BOW TO YOUR PARTNER. ALL HANDS AROUND..
IT'S GETTING KIND OF LATE. I THINK I'LL CALL IT A DAY AND GO HOME
END

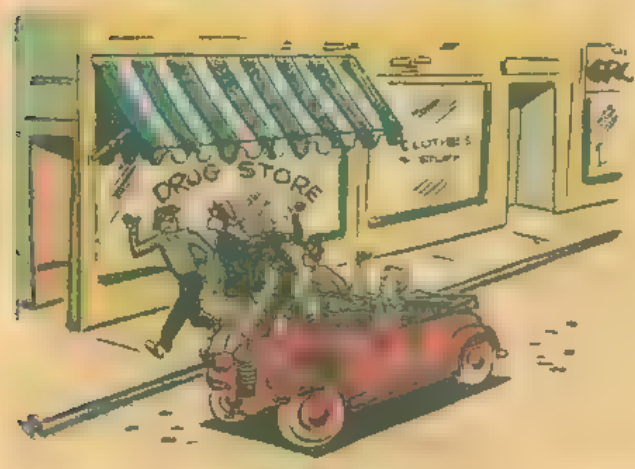
DRUG STORE

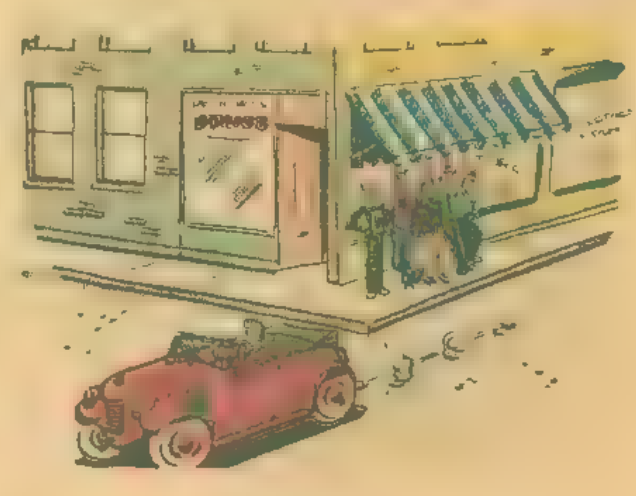

GROCERIES
DRUG STORE

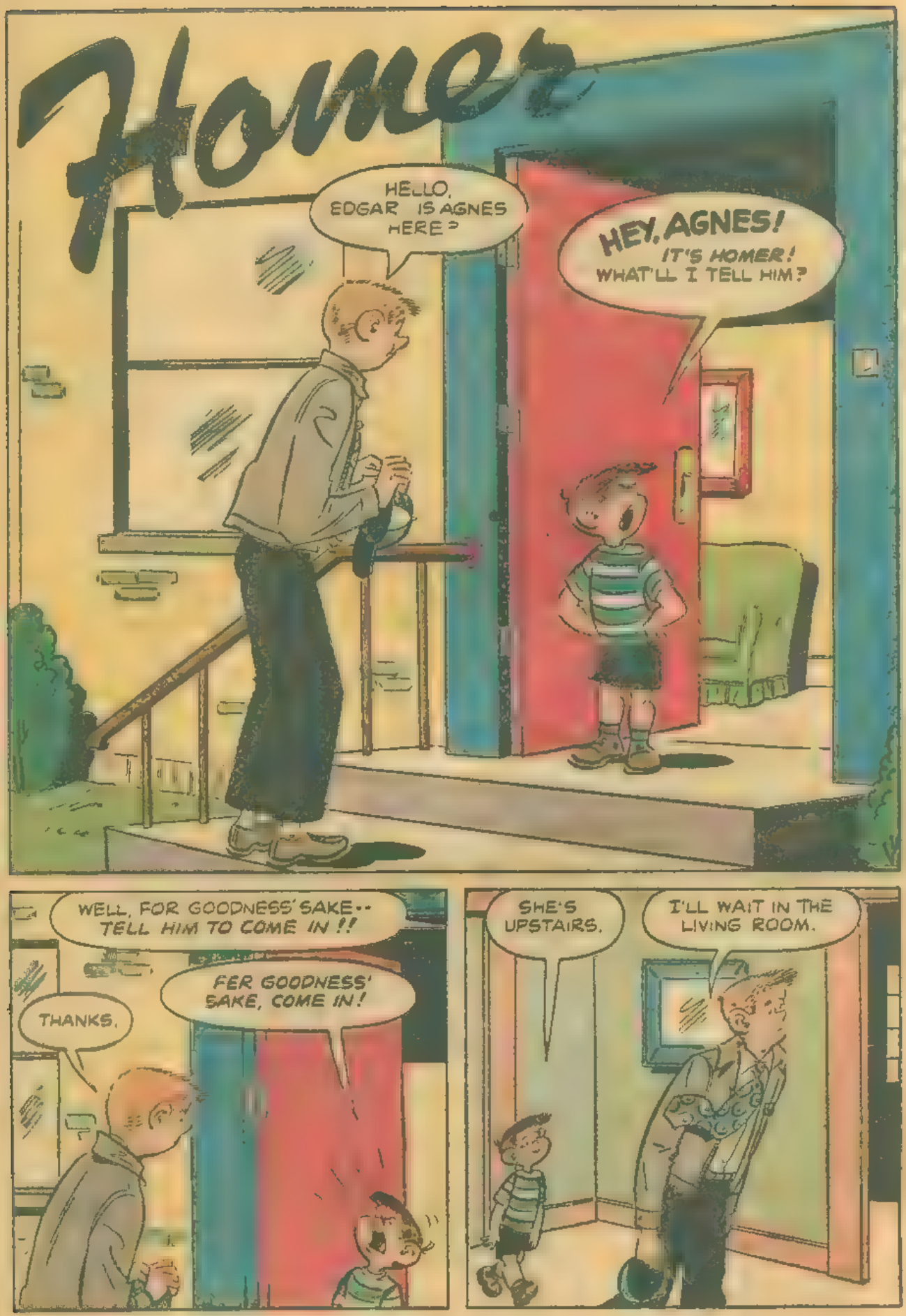
GROCERIES
DRUG STORE

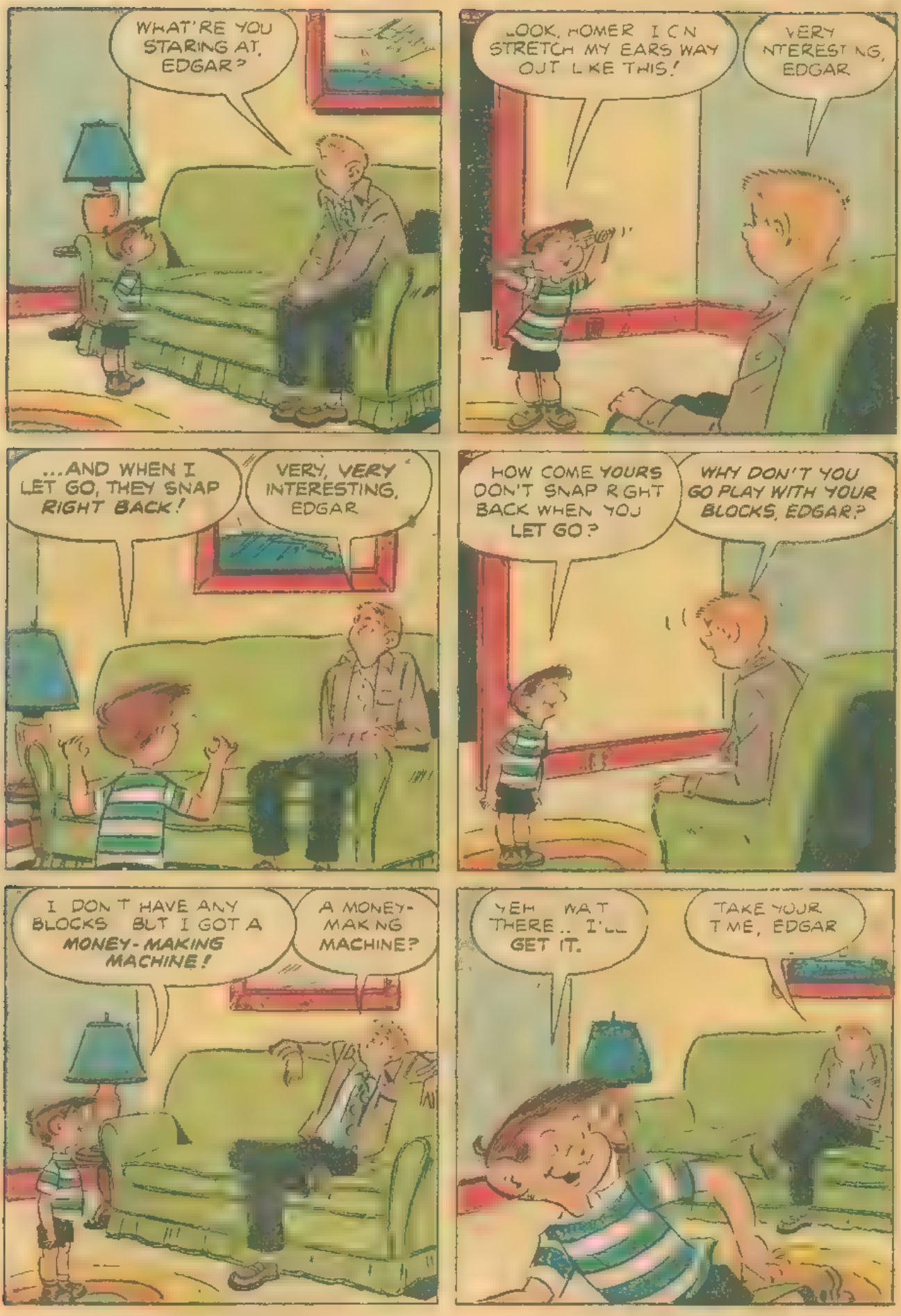
SHULTZ
GROCERIES

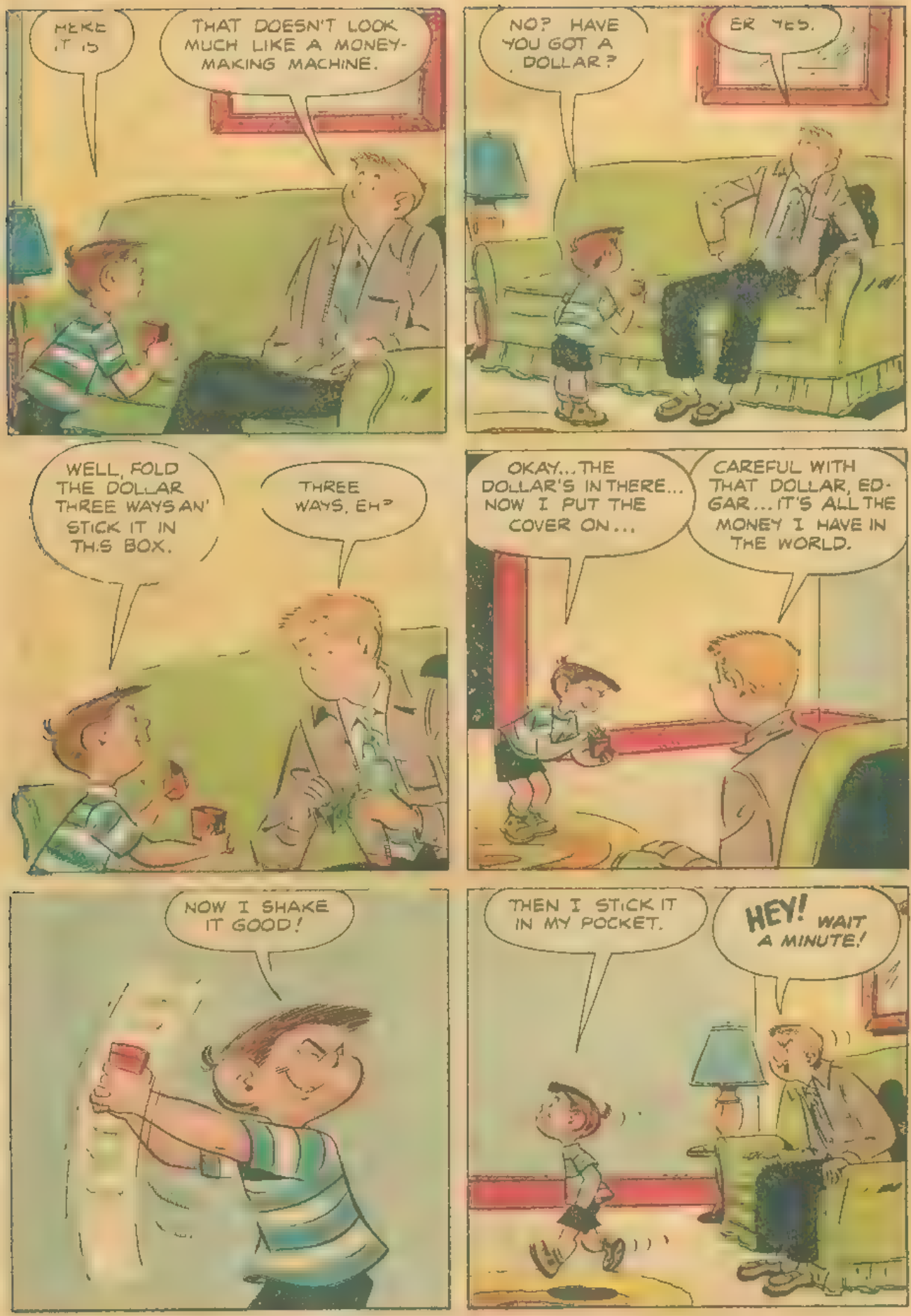

DRUG STORE


DRUG STORE

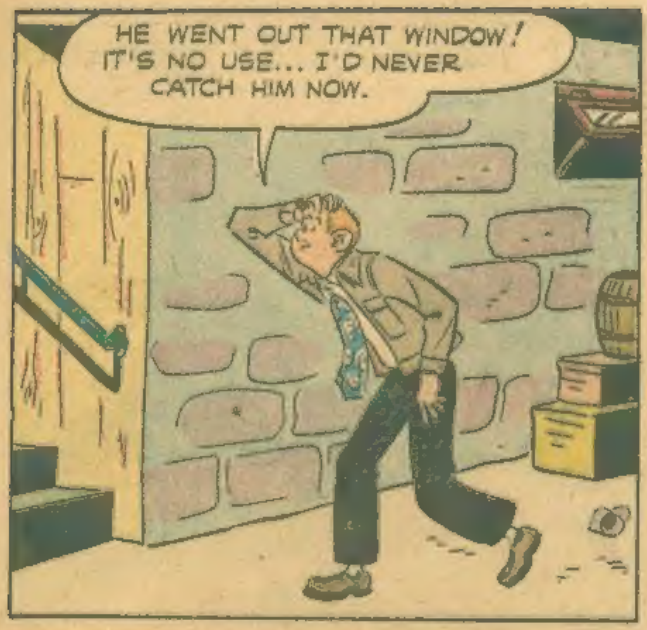



Homer
HELLO, EDGAR IS AGNES HERE?
HEY, AGNES! IT'S HOMER! WHAT'LL I TELL HIM?
WELL, FOR GOODNESS' SAKE-- TELL HIM TO COME IN!!
FER GOODNESS' SAKE, COME IN!
THANKS.
SHE'S UPSTAIRS.
I'LL WAIT IN THE LIVING ROOM.

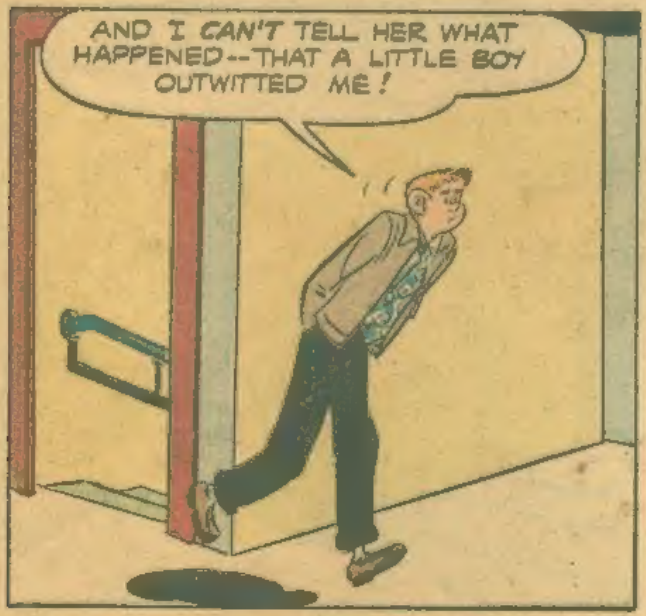

WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT, EDGAR?
LOOK, HOMER I CN STRETCH MY EARS WAY OJT L KE THIS!
VERY NTEREST NG, EDGAR
...AND WHEN I LET GO, THEY SNAP RIGHT BACK!
VERY, VERY INTERESTING, EDGAR
HOW COME YOURS DON'T SNAP R GHT BACK WHEN YOJ LET GO?
WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY WITH YOUR BLOCKS, EDGAR?
I DON T HAVE ANY BLOCKS BUT I GOT A MONEY-MAKING MACHINE!
A MONEY-MAK NG MACHINE?
YEH WA T THERE .. I'LL GET IT.
TAKE YOJR T ME, EDGAR


HERE IT IS
THAT DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE A MONEY-MAKING MACHINE.
NO? HAVE YOU GOT A DOLLAR?
ER YES.
WELL, FOLD THE DOLLAR THREE WAYS AN' STICK IT IN THIS BOX.
THREE WAYS, EH?
OKAY... THE DOLLAR'S IN THERE... NOW I PUT THE COVER ON...
CAREFUL WITH THAT DOLLAR, EDGAR... IT'S ALL THE MONEY I HAVE IN THE WORLD.
NOW I SHAKE IT GOOD!
THEN I STICK IT IN MY POCKET.
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

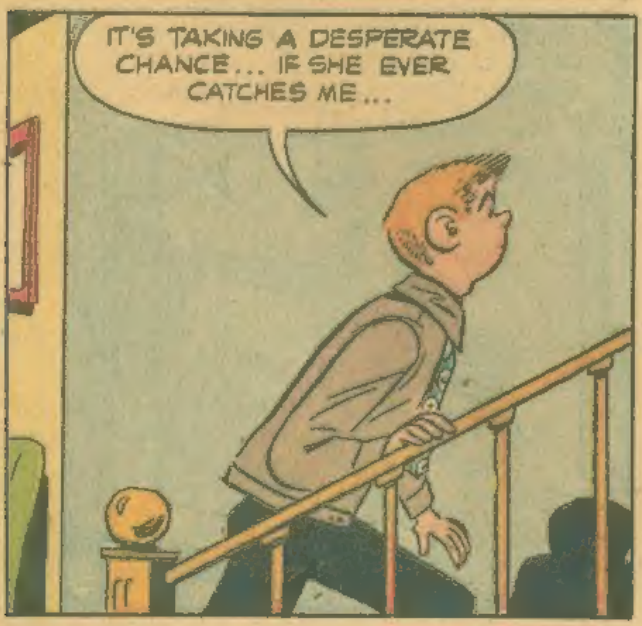
WHAT?
I... THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT WAS A MONEY-MAKING MACHINE!
IT IS! I JUST MADE MYSELF A DOLLAR!
WHY, YOU LITTLE--
EDGAR!
COME BACK HERE!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO LET HIM TAKE THAT DOLLAR!
WELL... I'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED ANYWAY! HE'S HIDING DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE!

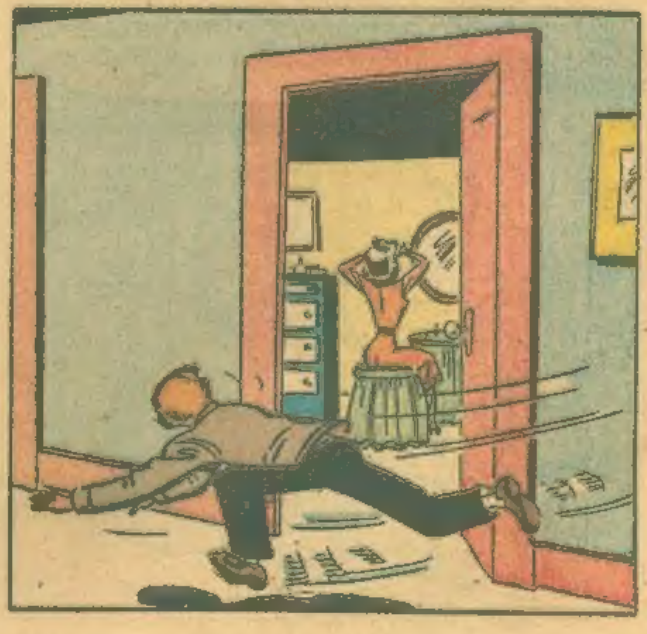

HE WENT OUT THAT WINDOW! IT'S NO USE... I'D NEVER CATCH HIM NOW.

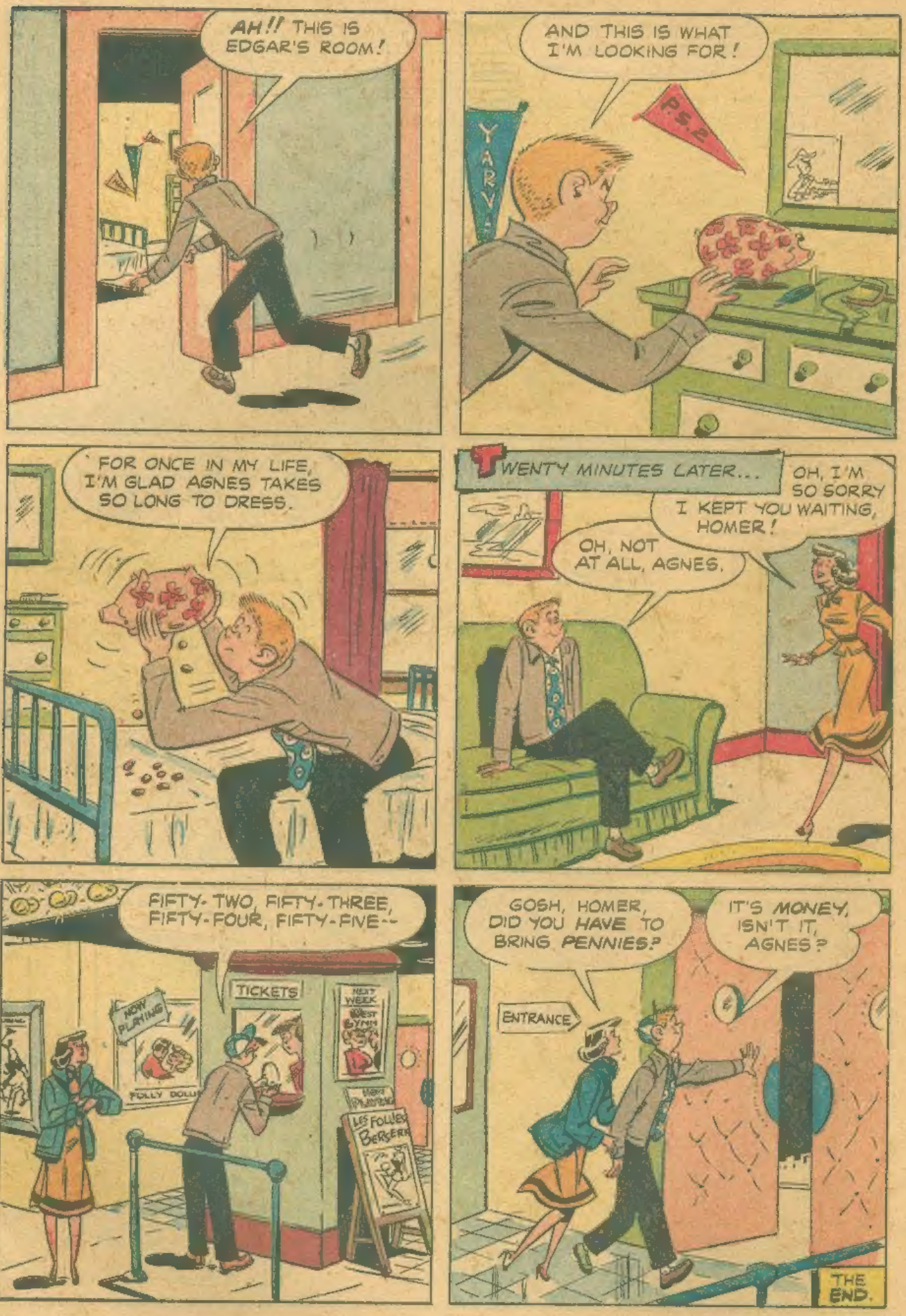
OH, WHAT'LL I DO? AGNES EXPECTS TO GO TO THE MOVIES!


AND I CAN'T TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED--THAT A LITTLE BOY OUTWITTED ME!

?
?
?
?
?
?


IT'S TAKING A DESPERATE CHANCE... IF SHE EVER CATCHES ME...




AH!! THIS IS EDGAR'S ROOM!
AND THIS IS WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!
P.S.2
YARN
FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE, I'M GLAD AGNES TAKES SO LONG TO DRESS.
TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
OH, I'M SO SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING, HOMER!
OH, NOT AT ALL, AGNES.
FIFTY-TWO, FIFTY-THREE, FIFTY-FOUR, FIFTY-FIVE--
TICKETS
NOW PLAYING
FOLLY DOLL
NEXT WEEK
WEST LYNN
LES FOLLES BERGERE
GOSH, HOMER, DID YOU HAVE TO BRING PENNIES?
IT'S MONEY, ISN'T IT, AGNES?
ENTRANCE
THE END.

HENRY ALDRICH GETS INTO THE ACT

(Continued from inside front cover)

everything stopped. The audience, shocked, buzzed with excitement. Geraldine was nearly in tears and Henry was speechless with embarrassment.

An attendant hastily gathered the purse and its contents, swept up the broken mirror, and motioned Henry down to the door backstage. There the purse was returned along with several strong observations and somewhat disparaging remarks.

When Henry had brought the purse back to Geraldine, she discovered that the keys were missing.

"Henry," she whispered, "my keys, they're not here!" And she insisted Henry go back down right away and pick them up during the intermission.

"What, you again?" said the stage manager when Henry appeared at the backstage door. "Haven't you caused enough trouble?"

"The keys . . . my friend's keys—they're still out there on the stage . . ." began Henry.

"After the performance! Now get out!" the stage manager shouted in what Henry considered a very impolite fashion, and slammed the door.

Henry stood for a minute, frowned, and gently tried the knob. The door wasn't locked. He opened it slowly and slipped backstage.

A short intermission between acts had begun, and the curtain was closed, so in the confusion of hurrying performers and stage hands, Henry was unnoticed. He moved toward the spot where the keys should be.

Suddenly there was a call, "Places! Curtain!"

The music began and the curtain swept open. Henry was caught on the stage! Suddenly he saw the keys, pounced on them, turned and leapt for the wings. But he tripped on his trousers, which were just a bit too long, stumbled and sprawled headlong into a group of ballerinas right in the middle of the stage!

The theater was in an uproar. There were cheers and laughter, angry shouts and calls for the police. Loudest was the cry, "Throw him out!" This latter suggestion was promptly followed by the manager, and Henry found himself in the street!

Next morning, the Centerville Times-Herald carried a full description of the whole episode under the headline, "Local Boy Gets Into the Act; Stars!"

Mrs. Aldrich was somewhat upset but strangely Henry seemed rather pleased, even gay.

"Now, we'll see what the fellows say," he chuckled proudly to himself. "This certainly tops George Bigelow's performance when his pet badger got away from him in assembly last week!"

And Henry Aldrich left for school whistling. His cultural education was off to a good start.